**Shelburne Energy Committee**

Meeting Minutes: August 25, 2022, 7pm

**Present:** Tom Johnson, Pat Stevenson, Andrew Baker, George Boettner

Staff: Cynthia Boettner

**Minutes of July 21 meeting**: Motion to approve by George Boettner, 2nd by Pat Stevenson to approve minutes as amended was approved unanimously.

**MassSave Communities First Update**: Cynthia Boettner reported that she has been doing a lot of coordinating with All in Energy to help customers with specific problems.

Preparing for Grange Fair on Aug. 27 - looking to engage customers with a display that includes kids contributions from Mohawk Summer Program. Cynthia has designed a roulette wheel of energy saving tips to create a “spin to win” activity. Cynthia says she is well within the $500 budget for expenses on this event.

Email account: Cynthia is checking in 2 days a week to deal with Mass Save related stuff. John Walsh was dealing with other things until he resigned from committee. Not much happening on the email account. Tom agreed to look at account and take over what John was doing.

Cynthia reported that customers getting assessments have not been having good experiences. One customer got rescheduled and thought the heat pump quote was out of line. Company doing assessments is American Installations. One customer did a background check on the installer and found some concerning issues. Cynthia felt that her assessment was well done but the report was just outlined in one lump sum, rather than itemized by measures.

The committee agreed that we need to have a recommended list of approved MassSave contractors, AND that Cynthia can give her personal take on which contractors have good reputations and those that may not. Cynthia will attend an assessment to get a sense of how it goes.

Sept – Nov Planning: The only thing currently advertised is a talk to the Senior Center that Cynthia will do on October 4. Andrew suggested contacting the BSE Local Education Council, the Grange and the Kiwanis about potential presentations. Cynthia says she plans to contact Trinity Church, which has installed its own solar. Pat suggested a meeting at Memorial Hall, perhaps later in the fall, with Falls Cable taping the event for broadcast. Winter Farmers Market at BSE in November is another venue.

Cynthia agreed to contact the above groups and get dates for presentations. Pat agreed to work on the Memorial Hall presentations.

**MOU draft:** John Walsh developed a draft MOU between the Town of Shelburne and Mass SAVE home performance contractors. The MOU would commit the Energy Committee to promoting a small stable of contractors with the proviso that the contractors give the Energy Committee credit for assessments it refers.

Tom requested to send the draft, with edits, to the committee to review and to approve at the next meeting. The committee can meet next week with this as the topic. Tom will schedule for Aug. 31 at 6pm.

**Mohawk Solar:** Andrew Baker updated the committee about the Mohawk Building Committee’s unanimous approval of a motion to recommend Solect’s solar pv proposal to the full School Committee. The committee’s condition is that Solect get written confirmation that the solar pv will not void the roof warranty. Andrew encouraged the committee to attend the SC meeting in September.

**Eversource Meeting:** George Boettner reported on arranging a meeting with an Eversource rep about the limitations of solar panel development in Shelburne. Apparently the transformers on Highway 112 N across from the Catamount Storage business, for example, are near full capacity for handling more solar installations. Concern is that the transformers throughout Shelburne may be reaching maximum capacity.

**UMASS Solar Planning Initiative**: Tom agreed to pursue this educational initiative. George Boettner will check in Zara Dowling about the program to see if they would like Shelburne to join.

**Green Communities grant**: Still embargoed at this time.

**USDA Grant**: No updates on the USDA grant at this time.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

**John Walsh resignation:** The Committee accepted John’s resignation with regret. Tom moved and George 2nd a motion of appreciation for John’s many contributions. The committee greatly appreciates John’s willingness to be available for questions.

Pat Stevenson reported that she may have to scale back her participation in the committee due to a family medical emergency.

John recommended Lynn Benander, Dan Post and Noah Grunberg as potential new members of our committee. Andrew agreed to talk with Lynn and Dan. Tom will ask John if he will talk with Noah.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm