Shelburne Energy Committee – Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2023 7:00 pm

Zoom meeting

Present: Tom Johnson, Jeff Boettner, Pat Stevenson, Andrew Baker, Emily DeVito

Guest: John Walsh

Staff: Cynthia Boettner

**Minutes**: Approved meeting minutes of Dec. 15 and January 5 meetings with amendment to Dec. 15 minutes to clarify that there will be a Heat Pump Event on Jan 29 with a presentation by Mike Simons. Pat Stevenson moved and Jeff Boettner seconded.

**Cowell Gym Heat Pumps**: John Walsh reported the Town is awaiting a bid from Jamrog, the Eversource approved contractor, as expediter for the HVAC project as this avoids the need to go out to bid. Jamrog will submit a bid for the town to review. The plan is to use the existing oil-fired system as a backup but to design the heat pumps to function down to -10 or -12 degrees.

**LED Street Lights:** Eversource agreed to implement a program to replace all of Shelburne’s 110 high pressure sodium light fixtures with LED’s at no cost to the town. The program is a “prescriptive program” which means that the lights will likely be swapped out at a single wattage. Eversource has agreed to a pilot to test the light level and quality for 51 Watt and 36 Watt lights. There are 5 test lights at 51 watts on Main Street from Church Street north to John Walsh’s house, and there iare 36 watt test lights on Church St. at the intersection with HighStreet.

According to John Walsh, the current 70 Watt sodium lights have 6300 lumens and the 51 watt LEDs have 4000 lumens. The difference in wattage will save the town $5,300 per year. The Color Rendition Index (CRI) on LEDs is lower, which eliminates the blue light range, making them appear brighter even at lower wattage. John is leaning toward LEDs in the 25 – 34 watt range. John cautioned that Eversource has a limited set of options to choose from and that we may lose cooperation from Eversource if we get too picky. We cannot design custom solutions for specific locations under this “prescriptive program”.

John also noted that lower Kelvins creates a warmer light temperature. Fluorescents and LED Christmas Lights have high kelvins and are harsher. Cynthia mentioned that someone on the Buckland side said 2700 Kelvins is an ideal light.

Tom Johnson moved that the committee requests John to advise Terry to negotiate with Eversource to provide additional low watt and low Kelvin test options before we make a final choice on the LED lighting program. Seconded by Pat Stevenson and approved unanimously.

**MassSAVE Communities First:** Cynthia reported that planning for the Jan. 29 heat pump event is going well. Nancy Hazard connected us with a videographer who is interested in recording our event who will try to narratively integrate the slide presentation. Tom moved that we pay her a stipend of $200 – seconded by Jeff Boettner and passed unanimously. PR for the event includes flyers around town (Pat) and transfer station leafletting (Jeff), and two larger posters to be installed in the Memorial Hall Association display cases that face out onto Bridge Street (Tom). Pat has requested a Recorder climate section focus. She will contact Shelby Brock (formerly Ashline). Jeff Boettner is creating a Facebook page – Emily will delete the earlier draft.

Cynthia added that she met with Community Action PV about doing an energy event focused on low income households in the spring. Discussion ongoing.

**Memo of Understanding**: Tom received responses to the MOU he sent out from Revise and Homeworks Energy. Tom felt the Homeworks proposal was more complete but that either would fine. Jeff Boettner thought Revise was stronger. Cynthia proposed convening a study group to look at the proposals a bit more and bring a recommendation to the next meeting. The group agreed. Cynthia, Tom, Jeff and Emily will spend time on it and perhaps have more conversations with the proponents. Tom will share his draft contract with Terry for review.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Minutes drafted by Andrew Baker