Shelburne Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 9, 2023 7pm

Shelburne Town Hall

Present: Andrew Baker, Tom Johnson, George Boettner, Emily DeVoto

Staff: Cynthia Boettner

Guest: Bob Armstrong (Conway – former Selectman and early energy aggregation advocate)

Minutes: Feb. 16 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as edited by Tom Johnson. Motion: George Boettner, seconded by Emily DeVoto.

Energy Aggregation: The Committee met with Bob Armstrong about the menu of choices for energy aggregation that should go into the RFP for a new energy provider, as the contract with current provider will expire this year. The energy services broker we have been working with is Colonial Power. Bob Armstrong noted that he feels aggregation has been a tremendous benefit to Franklin County towns – we are paying 9 cents per kwh under the current contract for supply. Cost will likely rise due to power cost increases in the past year.

Bob shared a bit about aggregation and REC choices in Conway – they surveyed residents and based on responses chose 25% RECs as their base opt in choice. Tom Johnson made a motion that our 3 choices be:

1. The basic option as our default
2. 10% MA Class 1 RECs
3. 38% MA Class 1 RECs = 100% renewable

Seconded by George Boettner. Passed unanimously.

Energy Committee Budget and Goals: Committee reviewed a draft budget with income v. actual produced by Tom Johnson. Goals were revised to include events for 2023:

1. CAPV workshop on April 27 re low-income audits and heat assistance
2. Home Energy Tour (July? October?)
3. Workshop with Revise to introduce them and talk about what residents can get out of an audit and measures they can implement with incentives

Andrew recommended a format of goals, outcomes and the money needed to accomplish the goals presented and reviewed and updated quarterly

CAPV Flyer: The committee reviewed a CAPV flyer for their April workshop and offered edit suggestions.

Communities First Report: Cynthia reported that there is a good outreach opportunity with the Kiwanis Supper on Sat. March 11 – she will introduce herself and send around an email sign up sheet for follow up outreach once the relationship with our HPC vendor, Revise, is clarified.

Tom and Emily will attend the April 27 CAPV workshop to help Cynthia.

Now that the MOU with an HPC provider has been completed and Revise has been selected, Cynthia is actively firming up our working relationship regarding outreach to Shelburne residents to promote energy audits.

Cowell Gym Heat Pumps: John Walsh, town consultant to oversee the heat pump grant installation, says heat pumps will likely get installed in June.

Town-Owned 7 Acres: Andrew(?) (not Tom) noted that the Town signed a 2-year lease with ‘Hager’s Farm. Andrew noted that will provide an opportunity to research grants and the land to determine if there is a viable ground mount solar project there.

LED Streetlights: Committee members who have seen the lights prefer the 30 watt bulb, if the only choice is between that and the higher wattage bulbs that were on display. Several members of the Energy Committee expressed concern about the glare of the white lights and its possible impact on night vision and on wildlife.

Adjourned at 8:45 pm