**TOWN OF SHELBURNE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**BOARD/COMMITTEE: SHELBURNE ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**DATE: June 29, 2023**

**LOCATION:** This meeting was in person at Town Hall

**PURPOSE**: Special brief meeting

**REQUESTED BY:** Tom Johnson, Chair

**-- Call to Order ~7:05pm**

**-- Members present:** Tom Johnson, Pat Stevenson, George (Jeff) Boettner, and Doug Engle (non-voting)

 **Staff:** Cynthia Boettner (Community First Partnership), taking minutes

**-- Committee Membership**

Doug Engle will officially become a member on July 1. He has been sworn in.

Andrew learned that Selectboard members cannot be voting members of other committees and boards. The committee is happy to learn that he is willing to continue to come as a liaison from the Selectboard (SB).

**-- Approve minutes of the 6/15/23 meeting**

Minutes from June 15, 2023 approved with pending addition of Community First Partnership notes. (Motion to approve made by Pat, seconded by George. Vote Unanimous)

**-- Old business**

* LED streetlights – update
	+ Meeting with Police Chief: Tom reported that he met with Greg Bardwell to get feedback about moving to LED’s but possibly with lower wattage than Eversource provides. Chief Bardwell enthusiastically supported the committee’s efforts to research the issue, stating that the glare of LED’s can be quite excessive. Tom gave him the contact information for the Pepperel Chief of Police who is willing to give his opinion on their lights. Chief Bardwell says that he would like to follow up with him.
	+ Request memo to Selectboard for $9.1K for RealTerm Energy audit of streetlights. Audit would result in details about the type, size and cost of system that RealTerm Energy would recommend for Shelburne. Our request would be for ARPA funds to be used. Tom has drafted a memo to the Selectboard for consideration and Committee made the motion to approve the memo with one edit (by George; seconded by Pat, Passed unanimously) and to submit to Terry for the next SB meeting.
	+ Andrew had requested that before the committee submits such a request that we explore the feasibility of the Green Communities Initiative (GCI) as a funding source for the replacement of the lights. Tom spoke with Chris Mason of GCI and John Gould with Sen. Paul Mark’s office and learned that GCI has funding other town’s replacement projects. Can ask up to $200,000, but all outstanding grants have to have been completed and all money disbursed. That means that Cowell Gym mini-split project would need to be complete by Aug. 31 for a Fall streetlights request. Spring is more realistic.
	+ Bill Ashley wants to only fund solar projects, so turned down our request to help with the streetlight project.
	+ Sen. Paul Mark may go to bat for us to see if Eversource will reduce the cost to the Town for acquisition of the streetlights.
* **Community First Partnership Small Business Program**

“The Main Streets Program” is a Mass Save special offer that increases many of the incentives from “up to 70% off” to “up to 90% off” Door-to-door from Aug. 14-28. Businesses have until Sept. 14 to sign on. This includes electrified farm buildings, houses of worship and non-profit organizations. Energy Resources is the vendor administering the program (same as last year), with Darek Chomiak as the Sales Director that does the door-to-door visits and audits.

* **Advertising:** Businesses will first be sent a Mass Save-branded postcard and then we could also do a co-branded letter or other customized mailing with Town seal and Energy Committee logo (though we don’t have an official logo). A West County Shopper ad is feasible, but the committee decided that it isn’t an appropriate way to reach businesses and that a more direct approach is advisable.
* **Help requested with two businesses:** Darek could use help getting two businesses from last year rejuvenated on the idea. We will try to find out what their reluctance is and see if the hurdles can be overcome? Cynthia will ask John Walsh to check with one (because he seems to know them well) and will research an appropriate contact for the other and reach out.
* **Preparing business owners:**
* Cynthia requests that for the July meeting committee members think about the businesses they frequent and which would feel comfortable approaching about the Main Streets program. By then we will have more details. Darek said that this would be more helpful than accompanying him on the days of his door-to-door visits. Pat suggests she could reach out to the Outpost. Jeff will chat with the owner of Keystone (also owns the liquor store on Mohawk Trail and co-owner of Foxtown).
* Last year’s participants: Cynthia will send a list of the businesses that participated last year (we would like to get feedback about their experiences and testimonials, if possible, to inspire other owners)

**-- New Business**

**Solar Outreach:** Pat is working on a document for inform residents about Solar Options. Lynn Bernander met with her to give guidance. Pat is still hoping to plan a solar event for September. She says the EnergySage website has excellent information. As well as the Massachusetts Clean Energy Cente (found at mass.gov—“solar options”). Pat and Tom will go over the document she is writing and she will present it to the committee for the July meeting. She also pointed out a good article in the Greenfield Recorder from 6/23 entitled “Thinking about Solar at Home?” by Anita Wilson.

 **Logo:** Cynthia asked if we should try to have a logo made. Committee members didn’t think there was a huge need for one.

**Facebook page**— Kate Whitaker has suggested that our Facebook page be used to provide updates about the streetlight issue. We discussed whether it’s worth rejuvenating our page, but decided that nobody has the time to keep it up to date. It would take continual work and we don’t have the skills. e decided to take up Laurie Wheeler’s offer to help post, via the Arms Library, various updates we want to get out. She can repost to popular pages that get a lot of traffic.

**Urban Reforestation Bill:** An email request was sent for us to support a new bill that would help communities plant trees. Considering this would help with carbon sequestration the committee unanimously voted to support with Pat making the motion and Jeff seconding. Tom, as chair, will sign.

**Training Opportunity on Heat Pump’s by Abode:** Cost $800 to include multiple sessions. Starts next week. No committee members are in a position to attend, nor is Cynthia.

**-- Next meeting:** July 20, 2023. In person at Memorial Hall. Tom will be out of town, so George will take his place in preparations and facilitation.

**-- Adjournment** @ 8:14pm. (Motion made by George, seconded by Pat. Passed unanimously