Energy Committee Minutes

8/18/22

Members Present: Dawn Bower, Vance Bell, Bill Dunkel, Tom Johnson, Michael Simonds

Guests Present: Ned O’Rourke (Wardsboro Energy Committee)

The meeting began at 4:33 PM.

Bill moved to change the order of business to discuss the November community- build first, in order to accommodate Ned, who had another meeting to attend at 5:00PM. Michael seconded the motion. Everyone agreed.

Bill reported that Jessica Williams, the new Executive Director of Window Dressers, has extended the deadline for receiving measuring data and insert orders from us until October 31.

Ned reported that a recent Vermont law, H.518, provides $500,000 in grants to towns to weatherize municipal buildings. The law allows multi-town applications for funds, which raises the possibility that Wardsboro and Windham might collaborate on a proposal for a grant. The application deadline is October 31. Ned said he would send all of us a link to information about the law. Bill said he would check with Margo Ghia and the WRC to find out more. He also will check with Kord Scott about this.

Jessica Williams has been asking who will manage the Signup.com webpage for our community-build. Ned said he hopes that Jeff Young will do it again, but Jeff may be taking a job in California. Ned will put this issue on the agenda for the Wardsboro energy committee’s next meeting on August 30. Windham energy committee members are invited to attend that meeting. The Zoom link will be posted on the Wardsboro EC webpage.

Ned also reported that his energy committee has not had anyone sign up yet for inserts, though there has been some verbal interest. They are advertising in their local newspaper and his wife plans to advertise at the Bondville Fair, which she will be attending later this month.

Bill reported that he has placed another article about Window Dressers in the next issue of the *Windham News & Notes*. So far, the following people in Windham have expressed an interest in getting window inserts:

1. Marcia Clinton
2. Leila Erhardt - Dawn will double check with her
3. Antje Rupert
4. Kathy Forbes
5. Susan Persa
6. Ariel Cheney - Michael will check with her
7. Ruth Alden Wicker - Bill will email her

After Ned left the meeting, Vance moved that the minutes of the May 12 meeting be adopted; Dawn seconded the motion. Everyone agreed.

Bill gave a quick update on the proposals the town has received from Vermont Foam Insulation to insulate the basement of the Town Office and the Meeting House. A second bid is being solicited from another contractor. Bill and Michael also updated the committee on the ARPA committee’s work and the possibility that some ARPA funds may be devoted to covering the cost of both of those insulation jobs.

Michael reported on his proposed plan to install a 9.6 KW solar array on the roof of the Town Office, which would produce about 12,000KWh of electricity annually. This would be more than the annual average usage of all municipal buildings in Windham (9,759KWh), but the surplus power could be sold. It would cost about $39,000 to cover 600 square feet of roof space with 80 panels. Michael also noted that just that day he had spoken to Kyle, a member of the road crew who is a firefighter. Kyle said that fires on roofs with solar panels are extremely difficult to extinguish. Michael is going to explore a second plan to install ground mounted panels between the Town Office and the elementary school.

Michael also is going to do more research on Act 172 grants to see if they are for renewable energy generation or just for energy conservation. Tom reminded us that shadow flicker was a serious problem which partly derailed our previous effort to install solar panels behind the cemetery and Town Office. Hopefully, this will not be a problem this time because the proposed array is much smaller than the one we had contemplated with Green Lantern Solar about five years ago.

The committee decided that we will meet again at 4:30 PM on Thursday, October 20th.

Michael moved to adjourn; seconded by Dawn. The meeting adjourned at 5:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Dunkel