

Windham Energy Committee Minutes
10/22/22

Windham Energy Committee members present: Vance Bell, Dawn Bower, Bill Dunkel, Tom Johnson, Michael Simonds

Wardsboro Energy Committee members present: Ned O'Rourke, Jeff Young

The meeting was called to order at 4:33pm.

We began by discussing our respective orders for window inserts for the upcoming Community-build. Ned and Jeff reported they have measured 91 windows for 8 customers. Ned said he would measure windows for Melanie Jones in Newfane.

Bill reported that he and Vance have several measuring dates scheduled within the next week or two, including Paul Paytas in Townshend. Steve McFarland, from Window Dressers, has indicated that we can have until Nov. 4th or 5th, if necessary, to get our measurements into their system. Bill mentioned that Bruce Frauman has measured windows for Andy Chambers in S. Londonderry.

We agreed that Vance and Bill will drive to Norwich on Nov. 10 to pick up the pre-cut window frames. Ned will pick up other gear for the build (tables, jigs, etc.) in Brattleboro that day. Steve and Nancy Detra are contact persons in Brattleboro. (802-254-4762; 802-779-1006; ndetra53@gmail.com).

Michael Simonds reported that Southern Vermont Solar has estimated that it would cost \$39K to have solar panels installed on the roof of the Windham Town Office. The panels would produce enough energy to cover the cost of all of the town's electricity bills for all of its public buildings. Michael noted that there is a 30% rebate available from the federal government. We briefly discussed whether it would be best to try to finance this using some of the town's ARPA money, or by trying to get a grant through VT Act 172. Michael reported that he had recently spoken to Phil Ryan, in the VT Department of Buildings and General Services, which oversees Act 172 expenditures. BGS does free assessments of possible

projects. Mr. Ryan will be meeting with Chris Company, of the WRC, next week. It may be a year or more before funds are available to towns from Act 172.

Ned suggested that we might want to look into the possibility of making a Power Purchase Agreement with GMP by which S. VT Solar would build the array, a third party owner would finance it, and the town would not have to incur any cost at all.

Michael also mentioned that Jonathan Nelson called him today (Oct. 20) to report that Rich Turnure had asked him if he wanted to take over the ownership and development of the planned community solar array on Michael's property on Old Cheney Road in Windham. Jonathan indicated he is interested in doing this, but Michael felt he was unclear about what needed to be done next in order to make this happen. Jonathan asked Michael if the Windham energy committee could recruit offtakers for the power that would be produced. Michael said that before the EC could approach prospective offtakers we would need to see some kind of business plan which would specify the cost to prospective customers and the benefits they would receive.

Ned indicated that Rich Turnure still would finance the project, receive the tax credits and own the energy that is produced. Jonathan would be responsible for administering the project. Ned said he plans to have follow up discussions with Jonathan, also.

The next meeting of the Windham energy committee is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 17, at 4:30PM. Please note that the meeting time and date may have to change because 11/17 is the day the Energy Committee is scheduled to clean up from the Community-build and transport Window Dressers equipment to a location yet to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Dunkel

