

Energy Committee Minutes
12/15/22

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

Meeting opened at 4:33PM via Zoom

Vance moved to accept the minutes of the October 22 meeting; seconded by Dawn; unanimously approved.

Michael said there is nothing new to report on the plan to put solar panels on the roof of the Town Office. One solar company has expressed interest in the project at an estimated cost of about \$39K. He needs to get estimates from at least two other vendors.

Michael also has not heard anything from Jonathan Nelson or Richard Turnure about the community solar project on his property.

Bill attended a VECAN workshop this afternoon about community renewable energy. One of the presenters was Doc Bagley, head of the Strafford energy committee. With the help of the VT Law School Energy Clinic they are developing a 150 KW community solar project. They did an RFP and three solar companies submitted bids. They have chosen a company with which to work, have identified a preferred site, recruited off takers, created a member-owned LLC to manage the project and received a Certificate of Public Good from the Public Utility Commission. They have a year to complete the construction of the array. Bill plans to contact Doc Bagley and compare notes to see what we may be able to learn from Strafford's experience that might help our efforts to create community solar in Windham, or in other towns in the West River Valley.

We briefly discussed whether we should have an energy fair in 2023. The consensus was that we should since the pandemic seems to be waning. We agreed that it would be best to have an energy fair in late summer or early fall at Michael and Mac's home if the community solar array has been completed by then. The

committee was not interested in reviewing our enhanced energy plan at this point, preferring to focus on an energy fair.

We reviewed our recent community-build of storm window inserts. Overall, Window Dressers reported that 5,067 inserts were assembled for 682 customers by volunteers in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. We completed 164 inserts at the Meeting House from Nov. 11 through Nov. 15th.

We reviewed our process and noted that we were short on wood for making white struts. There also was a mixup regarding lunch the first day of our build and the person assigned to provide food did not show up. We experimented with a different technique for stretching plastic over window frames, by starting on the long (vertical) sides of the frame and pulling with both hands positioned about a third of the way from each corner of the frame. This seemed to work better than starting on the short (horizontal) side and pulling toward the middle of the frame. Bill also noted that having four people stretch plastic on very large windows was more efficient than having just two people do this task. Vance said that using the mounted heat gun on very large windows was very inefficient. It worked better to take the heat gun out of the mounted box and use it free handedly. Bill will pass these observations and suggestions on to Jessica Williams and Steve McFarland at Window Dressers.

The next scheduled meeting of the energy committee is on January 19th at 4:30. However, it is likely that this meeting will be canceled because both Vance and Dawn may be out of town. Bill will make a decision about this as we get into the New Year.

Vance moved to adjourn the meeting and Michael seconded the motion. The meeting concluded at 5:18PM.

Happy Holidays, everyone!

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Dunkel