Windham Energy Committee Minutes

March 21, 2024

Members Present: Bill Dunkel, Tom Johnson, Michael Simonds

Michael moved to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting; seconded by Tom; unanimously approved.

Bill updated Tom and Michael on the recent Window Dressers Leadership Team workshop that he and Bruce Frauman had attended. We agreed that although Window Dressers prefers to have different individuals in charge of various organizational tasks, Windham and the other towns that work with us on our community-build probably will have to decentralize most of these jobs. Bill volunteered to serve again as the local coordinator for our collective community- build and be our main contact with Alison Pouliot. Hopefully, the WCO will coordinate lunches again, assuming the community-build next fall occurs at the Meeting House. Each participating town, or group, will be responsible for creating its own measuring team. Tom volunteered to help Bill measure windows for Windham customers if Vance is unable to do it. Each town, or group, will be responsible for outreach (publicity), volunteer coordination and trying to identify shift supervisors. Bill will discuss this arrangement during an online meeting he is scheduled to have with Bruce Frauman, Tove Stigum and Jonathan Bigelow on Monday evening, March 25.

Bill will put an article about the Window Dressers program in the next issue of the *Windham News & Notes.* Michael volunteered to contact potential customers who requested inserts after the deadline for our community-build last fall to see if they still are interested and want to have their windows measured. Bill will send him their contact information.

Michael updated us on the status of the community solar projects in Wardsboro and Windham. The Wardsboro project is scheduled to begin in May and construction on Michael and Mac’s property hopefully will start in June or July. There are enough offtakers for both projects, but Michael and Mac would like to have a few more as backups in case anyone drops out.

Michael updated us on efforts being made by the West River 100% Renewables Group, led by Kim Friedman, to get a large community solar array built on the property of Robert DuGrenier in Townshend. This is an excellent potential site which is not visible from Rt. 30 and is close to a three phase power line. Yousri Abdou, head of Aten Solar Company, and representatives of Southern Vermont Solar currently are crunching numbers to determine if the project is financially viable.

Tom and Bill provided an update on the most recent efforts to secure funds to renovate the Meeting House. Cathy Fales has submitted a grant request for funds to install heat pumps powered by geothermal energy, insulate the space between the sanctuary floor and the downstairs meeting room, and have on-demand hot water and a backup generator. The town also has received a Paul Bruhn grant to build new doors which will comply with the current fire code. Other funds may be available for exterior work and for scraping and painting the outside of the building.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25PM.

The next energy committee meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2024 at 4:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Dunkel