**Shelburne Energy Committee**

Thursday, October 20 2022 7:00 pm

Shelburne Town Hall

**Present:** Tom Johnson, Pat Stevenson, George Boettner, Andrew Baker

**Guests:** Dan Post, Emily DeVoto

**Staff:** Cynthia Boettner

**Meeting Minutes**: September 22 meeting were unanimously approved as amended – motion by Pat Stevenson, 2nd by Andrew Baker.

**MassSAVE Communities First:** Pat reported that the postcard project completed 440 postcards. The 2 middle schoolers who volunteered completed 40 postcards. Pat and a friend did the rest. Tom moved that the committee approve purchase of 460 postcard stamps – George 2nd. The motion was approved unanimously. Pat used the town credit card to purchase stamps.

Cynthia says she will be attending the Autumn Farmers Market at BSE on Sunday, Nov. 20 to do MassSAVE promotion. Others are welcome to join Cynthia. She will use the same presentation materials she used at the Grange Fair.

Cynthia is planning a presentation on heat pumps in December and has created a Google Groups doc to collect contact info for people interested in heat pumps. Cynthia mentioned that some of the presentations are not that good and that the presenter she liked costs $600 to appear in person. Dan suggested looking on You Tube for good presentations. Need to help people adjust expectations as contractors are already backed up. The plus side is that the federal and state incentives should get clarified and will be improved by Jan. 2023.

Tom and other Committee members posed a number of questions that a heat pump presentation should address:

* What companies are in the area?
* How long will it likely take to get the work done?
* To what cold temp will the heat pump work?
* What breaker box upgrade may be needed.
* What is the annual operating cost?
* What rebates can be expected?
* What might an average house with x insulation level require for heat pumps and what range of cost is that?

Tom mentioned that we have $600 to spend. Cynthia will reach out to Mike Simons of Abode to see if he is available in December. The committee unanimously approved developing this kind of presentation and getting a date based on his availability.

Emily volunteered to set up a FaceBook group for the committee. Andrew reiterated importance of using the West County Shopper, Shelburne Falls social media sites, Falls Cable, flyers and other free outreach opportunities, along with the Shelburne e-newsletter. Need to get a December date and location approved before mid-November. Tom will explore the BSE cafeteria and library and what screen audio and distancing is.

**HPC Review:** When you plug in 01370 into the MassAVE web site you get 3 companies. Two of the 3 are comprehensive – they do energy audits, insulation and heat pumps: Energy Monster and American Insulation. John Walsh recommended going to bid so as not to show favoritism. John mentioned there are others in town who work for other HPCs – Home Works Energy is one – largest HPC in MA. Got good reviews from Springfield MassSAVE which selected them. HomeWorks Energy is already doing a lot of marketing in Shelburne so that could be a reason to select them.

Heat Pump companies: Arctic, Climates by Pomeroy, Sandri Energy, Gates HVACR

Geoff agreed to review Rouwenna Altmose’s sample RFQ from All in Energy to adapt it for our purposes. Can explore whether FRCOG will help with RFQ.

**CAPV**: Cynthia, Tom, Jeff and Emily met with Peter Wingate, energy coordinator at Community Action Pioneer Valley to learn about their program for low income folks. Peter suggested working with them on a Spring blitz – they would come to town and go house to house. Cynthia suggested doing outreach now to help people get on fuel assistance, which then qualifies them for other energy measures. However, many are too proud to do fuel assistance. Should get the message out that SNAP makes you eligible for Fuel Assistance. Do outreach at Food Pantry & Clothes Closet.

Cynthia says next training for energy advocates in on October 26 on the topic of fuel assistance.

**Green Communities Funding:** Embargo has been lifted – we can now talk about the Cowell Gym $118,000 grant. Terry will be working with FRCOG on bidding the Cowell Gym project. More to come.

**Eversource Meeting**: George and Tom met virtually with Matthew Secovich of Eversource and one other to explore capacity limits in the Eversource grid system in our region. They assured that for home installations there is not a problem. They have a hosting connectivity app map that one can plug an address into and it will show the line and what the remaining capacity is. They said for projects under 150 kw there is not significant pressure on the lines.

The line and sub-station hub on Colrain-Shelburne road by the highway garage is starting to max out. Can apply for an assessment – they have 10 days to respond once you apply.

**Energy Committee Membership**: Dan said he is willing to keep attending but not yet ready to officially join. Emily has her paper work in but not yet sworn in. Pat is dealing with a family health issue and may need to step back from volunteering but will stay on the committee.

**USDA Grant**: No news yet. May hear by December.

**Mohawk Trail HS Solar project:** No new news. Solect Energy is doing the engineering assessment and will submit a final proposal when that is complete.

**Next Meeting**: Thursday, November 17 at 7pm at Memorial Hall, 51 Bridge Street

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm