**Shelburne Energy Committee**

Thursday, December 15, 2022 7:00 pm

Shelburne Town Hall

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

**Staff:** Cynthia Boettner

**Meeting Minutes**: November 16 meeting minutes were approved by motion by Tom Johnson, Pat Stevenson, George Boettner, Andrew Baker. Emily DeVoto abstained.

**MassSAVE Communities First:** Cynthia reported that on Jan. 29 1 – 4:30 pm at BSE there will be a heat pump event including a presentation by Mike Simons with ABODE. Mike Simons will be doing a webinar for the Green Communities division on Jan 25 that may be a good recording for those who cannot come to BSE. Falls Cable may be able to record the BSE meeting, but there are concerns about quality. The group empowered Pat & Cynthia to decide if hiring Falls Cable at $50/hour is worthwhile, after they consult with their recording engineer, Otis.

Cynthia is doing outreach through the Senior Center newsletter and West County Shopper to offer help to people seeking home energy assessments. CAPV Income Eligible Program is willing to do a spring blitz – planning meeting on Jan 4 at 11am, 10th at 1pm or 11th at 1pm. Cynthia will schedule. CAPV is very under staffed, with a 6 month wait for assessments at present.

**Home Performance Contractor Memorandum of Understanding**: Tom drafted an MOU and reviewed with Terry Narkewicz who recommended we review it with the bid consultant at FRCOG. Andrea Donlan at FRCOG suggested having only 1 HPC selected could open us up to lawsuits. However, the rep at All in Energy said if we select multiple HPCs we will be an outlier as most communities select only one.

The committee agreed to put Tom’s MOU out to bid and to select one HPC. Pat moved, George 2nd and the motion passed unanimously. Peter Wingate at CAPV has a list of 5 or more HPC’s that serve our area and will receive the RFP.

**MassSAVE Program Review**: Cynthia and Tom reported that we passed the review and were cited as one of the top 3 programs in the state.

**Consult with Isaac Baker – a principal at Resonant Energy – about US DOE grant opportunities:** Isaac reported that DOER is providing block grants to small towns or groups of small towns. Details are preliminary on what the grants can be used for. He recommended that Shelburne apply so as to be eligible when the state releases these grants over the next few years.

The Committee agreed to submit an information request form to DOER that will make Shelburne eligible for future federal Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) grants and technical assistance. DOER is interested in seeing towns develop a Climate Action Plan. Shelburne may have pieces of the Climate Action Plan as a result of achieving Green Communities status. The Committee affirmed that it will seek Select Board approval before applying for any grants.

Isaac also reported that there will be $80 million in Renew America’s Schools grants aimed at helping schools achieve energy efficiency, heat pumps, air quality, solar and other goals. Isaac said that Shelburne Falls does meet some of the target goals for rural, low income communities but may not meet federal criteria.

The committee agreed that if it accepts any future offer of volunteer help from Isaac Baker it will disclose that Isaac is the son of Andrew Baker (Select Board chair).

**Status of Green Communities grant for Cowell Gym heat pumps:** Tom reported that if we select an Eversource-approved contractor, hopefully local, the Town will not need to go out to bid. Terry Narkewicz is researching.

**Energy Committee Facebook Page:** Emily reported that Facebook has gotten more complicated and that we might want to just post on existing local social media – Library. Shelburne Falls in a Nutshell. All in Energy set up a Slack channel to communicate across towns. Emily agreed to contact All in Energy for possible consulting on a Facebook page before we let go of the project.

**Mohawk Trail Solar Project**: Andrew reported that he heard that Solect has begun the solar installation project but needs to find out if they have signed a letter of intent or if they have signed a full proposal.

**Status of the UMASS solar consortium USDA grant**: George reported that there has been no update from UMASS.

**Energy Committee Membership:** Emily DeVoto is now sworn in as a full member. Dan Post could not attend this meeting.

**Shelburne Streetlights – LED Conversion**: Tom reported that Terry Narkewicz has been in contact with Ken Wade at Eversource, who says that Eversource will be installing LED streetlights in Shelburne within the next 4 months. The committee asked Andrew to relay its concern that the brightness and color of the LEDs be researched, and that we consult with Buckland on their LEDs before proceeding further.

**Greening Greenfield’s request for participants in their forum on energy assessments and weatherization measures:** Andrew and others have consulted with Nancy. She is looking for “typical” MassSAVE projects.

**Ashfield Energy Committee event with Paul Mark:** Committee members will press State Sen. Paul Mark on Saturday Dec. 17 at 1pm in Ashfield re increasing capacity at CAPV. Cynthia felt we should limit assessment outreach to Shelburne Falls (01370) residents, including Buckland.

**Next Meeting**: Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7:00 pm on zoom for Jan, Feb, March

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.