**TOWN OF SHELBURNE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**BOARD/COMMITTEE: SHELBURNE ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**DATE: October 26, 2023**

**LOCATION: This meeting was held on zoom**

**PURPOSE: Special committee meeting**

* **Call to Order:** 3:32 PM by Chairman Tom Johnson
* **Members present:** Tom Johnson, Pat Stevenson, George (Jeff) Boettner, Philip Bragdon
* **Guest:** Tricia Yacavone-Biangi
* **New Business:**
* Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) Grant opportunity through Mass Save Green Communities Program
  + Tom reported that he and Tricia met with representatives from Weston and Sampson (W&S), Johanna Hall and Sam Alpert, on October 24th, to discuss submission of a proposal to the META program. This meeting discussed the possibilities of conversion of school buses to electric vehicles and of establishing one or more microgrids in town. Finally settled on proposing to establish Cowell Gym and Town Hall to Zero Energy Buildings. W&S will undertake preparation of the proposal to the META program.
  + Committee members discussed this opportunity and agreed that W&S should move forward with preparation of this proposal. Pat so moved, seconded by George, and passed unanimously.
  + Tricia will email W&S and inform them that the proposal would have to be completed by November 14th, allowing time for the Selectboard to review and approve the proposal in time for it to be submitted to Green Communities by the November 17th deadline.
  + More discussion was held regarding the potential for solar panels to be installed in school parking lots and in the town-owned parking lot behind Keystone Market.
  + Tricia reported that the Mass Clean Energy Center has been established to provide matching funds to communities applying for federal clean energy initiatives and possibly to assist communities in proposal preparation - a topic to be pursued by the Energy Committee, in collaboration with the school district in the future.
* Pat motioned and George seconded adjournment of this special meeting. Passed unanimously at 3:52 PM.
* Next Energy Committee meeting scheduled for November 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM.
* Small Business:
* Cynthia provided an update of results realized by Small Business (“Main Streets 2023”) program.
* She noted that there had been 13 assessments done overall (see addendum attached). It was also noted that there were no opportunities in many of the businesses and reminded the committee that 11 business upgrades had occurred in 2022.
* Revise:
  + Cynthia also provided an update of the Revise accomplishments (see addendum attached). She noted that they had done 42 assessments with 10 weatherizations completed.
  + It was also noted that 9 had signed up at the Grange Fair and that the fall mailing at All in Energy was under review.
* Community Action Pioneer Valley Accomplishments:
  + This program for income eligible residents had accomplished 42 assessments with 14 nearing completion.
* Solar Panels:
* A discussion was had on how best to promote solar units. No decisions were made at this meeting.
* It was noted that there is no program with Mass Save at this time for promoting solar programs. If was discussed if there is a solar energy fair that perhaps Mass save could participate.
* Some areas to pursue for solar programs included the Elementary School, M&T Bank and Highland Village
* It was noted by Andrew that we should focus the committee’s energy on town facilities for solar projects. He recommended researching total electric capacity and what it would take to fully solarize the town while working within net metering constraints/guidelines.
* Pat discussed the UMASS solar education seminar program available online and noted that it was skewed toward Municipal Boards and not really oriented to the public.
* It was decided to have additional discussion regarding solar panels and how to promote them at the next Committee meeting.
* Committee membership:
* It was noted by Tom that Philip has expressed interest in becoming a member of the Energy Committee. He was in attendance to learn more about the committee.
* Tom expressed a desire to vacate the Chairman position for the Committee and asked if there was interest within the existing membership. No interest was stated at this time. Tom agreed to stay on for the next several months so a new Chairman could be identified.
* Andrew suggested to recruit new non-voting members in hope of expanding the number of individuals involved in the committee.
* Andrew noted that any interested individual in the “Own the Lights” working group should email Terry to express an interest.
* **New Business:**
  + No new Business was discussed.
* **Community Comment:**
  + The floor was opened to community comment. No comments were made.
* **Next Meeting: October 19, 2023.**

**Adjournment:** A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:25. Pat so motioned, George seconded, the motion was unanimously approved.

**Shelburne Energy Committee Meeting 9/21/2023**

**Community First Partnership Notes**

**I. Grange Fair**

A lot of interest in solar and many people interested in Mass Save were funneled over to the Revise table (9 signed up with them). Some interest in the Aggregation Rate. Thanks to Jeff for helping field questions all day and to Tom and Pat for taking shifts. Also, to Pat for providing the links to good solar info! A lot of people were hungry for such guidance.

**II. Small Business (“Main Streets 2023”) Program Accomplishments**

--as reported by Darek Chomiak, Energy Resources USA:

1) 13 assessments; for some I’m still waiting on insulation quote (insulator is buried and some were dead on arrival due to very low usage, therefore minimal incentive.)

2) 2 signed contracts

3) 2 upgrades scheduled

4)  still haven't heard back from 2 (St. Joseph’s Church and Historical Society are considering the proposals)

Overall, most places where I walked in, there were no opportunities. Most had already done energy efficiency measures either on their own or through the program in previous years.

Reminder: In 2022, 11 businesses had weatherization upgrades.

**III. Revise Accomplishments**

-- data provided by Neil Potter, Revise, Program Manager assigned to Shelburne; summarized by Cynthia

Overall Data to Date (may not be fully complete)

* 42 Assessments Done: 36 Shelburne/Buckland owners, 5 additional units (same owners, same address; + 1 additional Shelburne address) = 42 units. 29 of these were in Shelburne.
* 10 Weatherizations Complete: 10 (7 in Shelburne). I spoke with 6 of these. Mostly good reports, one involved frustration.
* At least 1 Heat Pump: Incomplete data (at least 1 used Revise for heat pumps—Shelburne resident)
* Got 9 sign-ups at the Grange Fair
* Postcard for fall mailing is under review at All In Energy

**IV. Community Action Pioneer Valley Accomplishments (Income Eligible Residents)**

-- as reported by Peter Wingate, Energy Director, CAPV

**1 . Completed assessments and weatherization- 42**

**2. a. Heat Pumps:**

Completed – 3

Contract awarded – 7

Proposal submitted for approval – 1

Assessment completed, but awaiting proposal by contractor – 6

**Total close to completion – 14**

**b. Others Home Where Heat Pumps are Possible:**

On hold – 4

On prospect list – 3

Assessments scheduled – 17

**Additional Possible - 24**

**c. No-goes on Heat Pumps:**

Resident Declined – 6

Ineligible – 2

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**Total rejected- 8**

**Other Topics**

* **Remaining funds (needs to be assessed and discussed**) (Tom will request a budget update from Angel for discussion at next meeting)
* **SEC Email Account monitoring** (Pat will consider. Cynthia will show her.)
* **Testimonial used beyond All In Energy’s award application?** (Committee voted no blanket approval, but be assessed on a case-by-case basis)
* **Solar Fair or Energy Fair this winter?** (Discuss at future meeting)

**Addendum to Minutes: Notes provided by Cynthia:**

**Shelburne Energy Committee Meeting 8/17/2023**

**Community First Partnership Notes**

**Small Business (“Main Streets”) Program:**

* Mailers are arriving. Joint letter from Bob Manners and Eversource not yet sent.
* Contacted Wheelers in hopes they would get word out to other farmers
* Chatted with several business owners, as did Jeff. Pat handed out copies of mailers.
* Got word from Eversource about Greenfield Savings. 20 branches.
* Clarks Corvair “Hundreds of lighting fixtures”

**Revise**

* Plans to be at the Grange Fair
* Wants us to post on Facebook and to send a postcard. Will get something to us for review. Would reference to Nancy Carrigan resonate in Shelburne?

**All in Energy Requests**

Mailer as test: Test categories (see A below). Are we interested? Which one? Are we able to provide postage?

Giveaways (see B below)

Training on Inflation Reduction Act: Recording is available

Next meeting 8/29, may be shown the status of how well we are meeting our goals. I’ve warned them it will be based on incomplete information.

A) Optional Demonstrations Projects for Mailers (do we want to pilot one of them?)

* Language Access: Are QR codes or translated pages in different languages more effective to reach English Isolated residents
* Community Specific Visuals: Does including community specific visuals or key local celebrity images impact residents to take action?
* Segmented call of actions: Are there specific calls of actions that are more effective in driving residents to take action?
* Segmented messaging: Is there key messaging that drives residents to take action?

B) see next page

A list of items on a table

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