**Town of Shelburne Energy Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of Meeting held /Thursday, November 16, 2023**

**LOCATION: In person at Town Hall**

**PURPOSE: Monthly committee meeting**

**—Members present:** Tom Johnson, Pat Stevenson, Phil Bragdon, Jeff Boettner

—**Observers/Guest:** Cynthia Boettner, Andrew Baker

**1. Call to order:** Tom Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM

**2. Approval of minutes:** Minutes of the Energy Committee meetings held on 10/19/23 and 10/26/23 were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by

Pat Stevenson, seconded by Phil Bragdon, and approved unanimously.

**3. Old business:**

**Mass Save Community First Update**

Cynthia Boettner reported that she had an exit interview with the All In Energy (AIE) staff who asked if there were any suggestions/recommendations she had to

improve their operations. She suggested the following:

—pare down responsibilities of Energy Advocates.

—focus on reaching out to people who have already expressed

interest in moving forward with energy reduction goals and offer them

support, as well as possibly reach out to more landlords/renters.

—maintain connections with CAPV and also focus on moderate income households going forward.

She further reported that she will have a table at the upcoming Autumn Market

scheduled for Sunday, November 19, 2023 at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School. Phil will help Cynthia set up for the event and Jeff will help man the table with her.

On behalf of the Energy Committee, Tom Johnson expressed his thanks to

Cynthia for all she has accomplished to inform our residents of the incentives that are available to them to reduce fossil fuel consumption and reach our goals

to decarbonize our town.

**Energy Advocate position discussion**

Two candidates were interviewed for this position, Cynthia Fand and

Christopher Skelly, both residents of Shelburne Falls. After some discussion,

the questions that seemed most important for each candidate included:

—why would they want to work on this position.

—what is your background in energy efficiency.

—how to balance a mix of bureaucracy and doing outreach, to get results.

—experience with a mix of software especially Salesforce.

—commitment to the position through December 2024.

—experience working with individuals who find it difficult to navigate

the system setup to achieve energy efficiency goals.

—what questions do you have for us?

Upon completion of each interview, the committee discussed each candidate's qualifications. Both candidates were viewed as outstanding. A motion was made by Pat Stevenson, seconded by Jeff Boettner, and approved unanimously to select Cyndee Fand to be the new Energy Advocate for the Town of Shelburne.

Tom Johnson, will send our recommendation to Terry Narkiewicz for the

next Selectboard meeting scheduled for Monday, November 20, 2023.

**LED streetlights update**

Jeff Boettner reported that the Streetlight Committee will have their first meeting at 10 am on November 17th, 2023 at Town Hall. He reported that Real Term Energy, (hired to audit our streetlights), has been good company to work alongside. RTE provided a first draft of a map to the committee that gives the location of each pole, specs and condition of each light, and will identify issues that individual lights may have. Further online discussions with RTE will occur with regard to choices of control of lights, type of lights available, and how to move forward. Discussion followed regarding how residents could ask to turn off individual streetlights. Because this may affect public safety it would require discussion with the town’s police chief, and permission of the select board, as well as the possibility of a citizen petition process.

Further discussion followed with regard to possible funding options of new streetlights but nothing was decided.

**META application**

Tom Johnson reported that Tricia Yacavone-Biagi, working with Tom, wrote the proposal for a $15K grant which was reviewed and approved by the Selectboard. The application for this grant has been sent.

**Committee Membership**

Tom reported that he had names of people who might be interested in joining the Energy Committee and he will give those names to Phil Bragdon who will make contact with them.

**New Business**

Tom passed out graphs of Shelburne’s town energy use over the past year as provided by Massachusetts Energy Insights (MEI). This was discussed as a good starting point for a study of municipal buildings energy use, however the data likely underrepresented energy use due to the pandemic changes in use, especially for Memorial Hall which had the auditorium closed over this period. It also is too early to see the gains made by converting Cowell gym to electricity. The Police station stands out as a good target for study. The Arms Library data hints that they are still using more fossil fuel than electric despite having mini-splits suggesting a need for consultation on how the thermostats are being used.

**Public Comments**

Seeing no comments Tom, moved forward.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Pat, seconded by Phil to adjourn at 9:25 PM. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 7 pm. (may be via ZOOM if weather requires it).