**Town of Shelburne Energy Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of Meeting held Thursday, January 18, 2024**

**LOCATION: In person at Town Hall**

**PURPOSE: Monthly Committee meeting**

**Members present: Tom Johnson, Pat Stevenson, Jeff Boettner**

**Observers/Guest: Cynthia Boettner, Cyndee Fand, Fana Tusinski of**

 **Northeast Solar**

**1. Call to order:** Tom Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**2. Approval of minutes:** Minutes of the Energy Committee meeting held on

12/21/23 were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Jeff Boettner, seconded by Pat Stevenson, and approved unanimously.

3. **New Business:**

A discussion commenced with guest Fana Tusinski an HVAC installer with Northeast Solar. Some of the issues raised regarding heat pump systems included the following:

 —residents are concerned about heat pump systems not operating well in

 low temperatures, loss of power, inability to put all mini splits on one

 generator if power goes out as it would be too much of a load, residents

 need to be aware that filters need to be checked and cleaned if needed

 for mini splits to operate efficiently.

 —Fana also informed the committee that the refrigerant R410A was scheduled to be phased out in 2023 because it has been found to have a significant

 global warming potential and is potentially flammable. Homeowners should be prepared to ask installers if refrigerant in the systems they install is the new R454B and R32 refrigerants.

 --Homeowners should be prepared to ask installers if they have a Section 608 Technician Certification to work with refrigerants. Technicians are required to pass an EPA-approved test to earn this certification.

4. **Old Business:**

**Mass Save Community First Update**

Cyndee and Cynthia reported that they and Pat had met with Peter Wingate of CAPV and discussed going forward in Cyndee's role as Shelburne’s new Energy Advocate. They reiterated some of the issues that have been holding people back from moving forward regarding weatherization and installation of heat pump systems. There is a backlog at the moment which includes landlords/renters and those who may qualify for fuel assistance. As in 2023, wants to continue to place a priority on Shelburne/Shelburne Falls in 2024. He might be willing to work with Cyndee on outreach to landlords of low income renters but needs to get through with the backlog first and can evaluate then. He asked her to touch base with him later in the spring or early summer.

Pat Stevenson mentioned that she had made contact with Paul Mark’s office to set a time when Cyndee and possibly Peter Wingate might meet with Paul Mark to discuss this backlog. Unfortunately, Mark’s office has not responded to any messages left for setting a time to discuss this.

**Solar on the town pole barn**

John Walsh is working on an RFP for the solar installation for which the Town has funding. The committee discussed whether battery storage should be added and if net metering is allowed with battery storage.

**LED Street Lights**

Jeff reported that he was planning to meet with Real Term Energy on 1/19/24 for an update on work done thus far. The streetlight committee will have an opportunity to add input after hearing what RTE has accomplished thus far. He further reported that

there are 3 lights which the town has no jurisdiction for. Some are church lights and others are questionable re jurisdiction. Product evaluations from RTE for energy assessments on light brands will be considered by the committee. Funding for lights

has not been determined yet.

**Committee membership**

Tom reported that he had gotten the name from Phil Bragdon of an individual in town who might be interested in serving on the Energy Committee. Tom tried to call the individual and left a message but got no response.

**5. New Business:**

**2024 budget for the Community First Partnership**

Tom presented the summary budget proposed for Mass Save to be invoiced to Eversource for the first six months of 2024. The budgeted items are:

* Energy advocate salary $6,000
* Marketing/Promotional $200
* Postage, mailings $200
* Supplies $200
* Stipends $200
* Energy fair $800
* **TOTAL $7,700**

Jeff motioned to approve the invoice and Pat seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Tom also mentioned that there is about a $7,000 carry-over from the previous year, which will enable Cynthia Boettner to be hired as needed to assist Cyndy Fand take on her role as our new Energy Advocate, as well as to support additional outreach activities.

**Announcements**

Jeff reported that power lines running parallel to Route 2 towards Charlemont in rural

Shelburne will be replaced with bigger poles in 2027, and that he will be involved in

surveying the transect for ecologically sensitive areas to be worked on

.

Cyndee reported she had attended the Offers and Needs program held on 1/14/24

where solar for the town was discussed among other issues.

**Public Comments**

There were none.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Jeff, seconded by Pat the meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM. Motion

approved unanimously.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 7 PM at Town Hall.