**Town of Shelburne Energy Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of Meeting held Thursday, February 22, 2024**

**LOCATION: In person at Town Hall**

**PURPOSE: Monthly Committee meeting**

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

 **Phil Bragdon**

**Observers/Guest: Cynthia Boettner, Cyndee Fand, Andrew Baker**

**1. Call to order:** Tom Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

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

1/18/24 were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Jeff Boettner, seconded by Pat Stevenson, and approved unanimously. Minutes of the special Energy Committee meeting held 2/8/24 were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Jeff Boettner, seconded by Phil Bragdon, and approved unanimously.

**3. Old Business:**

**Mass Save Community First Update**

Cyndee Fand, Energy Advocate, reported that she is in the process of completing the trainings of All In Energy. There were some issues for her with access and using

Sales Force but she is confident of what she has to do going forward. She has also developed a questionnaire to determine issues residents have had with moving forward

on weatherization/heat pump installations. She asked about the possibilities of how to get the questionnaire out to residents. Suggestions made were posting on the town’s website or via the town newsletter. It was suggested that Cyndee should speak to

Terry Narkiewicz about the best way to get the questionnaire out. Also, the flyer developed to get audits should be edited to take Cynthia Boettner’s name off and put Cyndee Fand’s name on it.

**Solar on the Town pole barn Update**

Tom Johnson reported that John Walsh and Terry Narkiewicz are working on an RFP

with FRCOG.

**LED Streetlights**

Jeff presented a table showing how the MMBtu’s of the streetlight compare to the energy used by several other town buildings. The streetlights at 181 MMBtus’ are using only 10 MMBtu’s less than the Arms Library currently, but after switching to LED’s they will use only 43 MMBtu’s which is 14 less than the much smaller Shelburne Free Library. This is a 76% reduction in energy consumption.

The Shelburne Streetlight Committee will vote on Friday Feb. 23rd to determine which brand of Streetlight to use in Shelburne. RTE had bids from 4 companies willing to do our roughly 100 lights. Each of these companies uses a different brand of light (Gilman Electric Supply use Acuity, Graybar Electric Co.Inc. uses GE, Speclines uses Lumecon and WESCO uses Cooper Lighting). We will also select the Kelvin rating (color range). Dark Skies MA recommends using 2200K to 2700K with 3000K for special projects. Jeff has visited sites with 2200K, 2700K and 3000K, and viewed sample towns of the companies’ projects.

The Streetlight Committee will also be holding a special meeting about streetlights in early April (date not chosen yet).

**Empower Massachusetts grant ideas**

Tom Johnson reported that Empower Massachusetts is a program that promotes environmental justice efforts to provide opportunities to low-income residents to reduce energy costs via electrification/weatherization methods.

Issues that have arisen involve identifying low income residents, landlords/renters and who pays for what….e.g. fuel/electricity. Working with landlords to help resolve issues is important and perhaps Peter Wingate of CAPV can assist with this as grant proposals are due April 3, 2024.

**Committee Membership**

Phil Bragdon reported that he will continue to seek individuals who might be interested in serving on the Energy Committee.

**4. New Business**

**Multi-year plan for reducing the Town carbon emissions**

Tom Johnson presented two charts (see attached) of fossil fuel/electric consumption by the town’s streetlights, vehicles, and buildings from FY 2012 through the present date. We discussed the possibility of obtaining a grant to have an energy consultant company undertake a comprehensive study of our municipal greenhouse gas emissions and how best to reduce these as fast as possible.

**Energy Fair Ideas**

Cyndee and Cynthia both recommended that we begin to think about organizing an Energy Fair this Spring and it was decided that we should plan on doing this around Earth Day. The following suggestions were made:

—Field trips to homes that have taken measures to reduce fossil fuel consumption.

—Have reps from various energy businesses…..e.g. heat pumps, solar options present

 to discuss options with residents.

—Have residents who have completed audits, weatherization measures,

 and heat pump installations give testimonials.

—Have someone from MTRSD give a presentation on the Long-Term Sustainability

 Plan at Mohawk. Contact person for this is Robin Pease. Phil Bragdon will

 make contact for this. Perhaps students could be present to discuss the

 sustainability program at MTRSD.

—Have someone give a presentation on streetlight issue as the town meeting will be

 coming up in May.

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 at Town Hall

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Pat, seconded by Jeff, and approved unanimously,

the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.