

**GREENSBORO ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES JANUARY 16, 2024**

Present: Liz Steel, Erika Karp, Jan Terwiesch, Bill Chidsey, Liz Hatch, Beth Meachem, Blake Auchincloss (on zoom)

**Meeting Called to Order by Liz Steel 6PM
Attendees Introduced themselves**

Review of Minutes:

Beth made motion to accept the minutes of October 23, 2024

Liz Hatch seconded

No Discussion

Approved

Updates from Committee Members:

Beth provided MERP grant overview noting that she has had conversations with BGS and Vermont Historic Preservation. We are keen to get the ball rolling to implement scope of work including: insulation of the library basement; heat pump and ventilation installation; battery backup system; and window replacement in the new wing. Liz indicated we have a balance of approximately \$1800 in the MERP account to be used by the end of 2025.

Liz Hatch relayed that she had met with Maya and had some training on maintaining our page on the town website. Discussion was had on what new information could be put on the page. It was decided that currently Efficiency Vermont has a new rebate on Electrical Panel upgrades for homeowners. Beth will do write up and this will be placed on web page and FPF.

Liz mentioned that there are a number of grants available and that she and Beth are working with Josh Karp to establish the basic requirements so that the town can go after Federal grants. Beth and Liz submitted a VCRD technical grant application called the "Climate Economy Community Program" that would provide assistance in helping the energy committee create a strategic action plan. We will hear back by the end of January. Liz also mentioned that the new Vermont Climate Action Plan is due on July 1st. Bill suggested that we look into the USDA grants. He will forward the group The next email he gets so we can all sign up. Liz will share emails she receives from organizations such as VECAN and others so that the group can sign up and stay updated.

Discussion on ECAC Mission Statement, vision and goals

Liz shared mission statements from energy committees in other towns.

Liz, Beth and Blake agreed to work on this together for our committee.

Discussion was had around the idea of "engaging" the community as part of our mission. Plan is to use the energy goals, policies and actions in 2019 Town Plan as the

springboard for our efforts. The 2019 Town Plan states that it is important that “Greensboro works towards a more sustainable energy environment, which will bring many advantages to the town, including reduced use of fossil fuels, lower environmental impacts, and lower energy costs...”

Window Dressers Discussion:

Liz Hatch has been involved in the measuring effort. Jan was involved in the fabrication. We are looking at how we might support this effort moving forward. Liz and Jan to attend zoom with Glover and Craftsbury on Monday to discuss how we might work together on this initiative.

Vermont Commercial and Residential Building Energy Standards Discussion:

Bill shared copies of the state energy standards. Discussion was had about reaching out to the DRB to discuss how we might encourage/recommend building standards for new construction and renovations. Blake and Bill to reach out to the Greensboro DRB. Liz suggested that the Habitat for Humanity build in the Bend might be a good opportunity to share best practices in incorporating standards providing an educational opportunity for the community.

Community Solar:

Liz reported that the state is back peddling on solar referencing ACT 179. There is a pause on net metering. Liz will reach out to Hardwick Electric and their new Executive Director to find out what Hardwick Electric might be doing for low income households. In the meantime she recommended that the committee look at potential sitings for solar in the future referencing work completed for the 2019 Town Plan.

Other Business:

Still need to research the \$6,000 balance on the town books for energy project. Liz Hatch expressed interest in focussing on emergency and resilience efforts. A follow up meeting with the Hazard Mitigation Committee was suggested. She will continue to post information for ECAC on the energy page on the town website. Beth suggested that the committee might want to look at putting some effort into sharing information about off-grid approaches to saving energy.

Next Meeting scheduled for Thursday April 17th at 6PM