

Craftsbury Energy Committee Minutes 2022-01-20

Attending: Ned Houston, Alan Turnbull, Craig Taylor, Mabel Houghton, Vince O'Connell, Kevin Gregoire, Catherine Cusak, Lisa Sammet, Bill Chidsey from the Hardwick Energy Committee.

1. Town Hall / Town Clerk's Office

- The Select Board is thinking of moving the Town Clerk's office to another location
- So, they do not want to invest much money in the Town Hall
- However, taking care of the building is important
- Weatherization of Town Hall
 - Drainage is most costly and it doesn't make sense to do the foaming without addressing the drainage problems
- Foaming of Town Hall basement a "go", mostly
 - Estimates uncertain in long run. They are good for 30 days
 - Timing of Foam application dependent upon watching drainage on North side in the spring or with heavy rain.
 - North side foundation appears to have some problems
 - Plan to include cost in Town Hall repairs budget, not line item to vote on.
- Insulation around hot water pipes and heat vents in the basement
 - Craig insulated the hot water pipes and vents
 - spent \$165 for the project
 - but hasn't done the ducts and vents which would cost about \$500.
 - need to also do the vents

2. Solar Array on Town Garage

- Concerns about:
 - Original proposal Main Garage Roof, 5/12 pitch holding snow load
 - Cost replacement of rusting roof panels - Expense for trenching & potential new meter
 - Potential Transformer and 3 phase power upgrade might need to be done
 - 17 - 19 year payback
 - The Select Board is open to potential ground-mount array on private land or otherwise

3. Micro Grid update

- Best if the batteries are close to the solar system that is generating the electricity
- Is it possible to put solar on the Academy gymnasium roof? It would be stored in batteries there
- Discussion about the possibility of a new elementary school which should include solar
 - Bill suggested that if a new elementary school is built then a heat-recovery system should be considered which means the solar is more efficient
- Ned and Catherine will advocate with the School Board if they are going forward with this
- Would need a detailed plan of what the microgrid would be, how big? Where? For an emergency shelter?
- Vince will send out info on microgrids for us so we can encourage Hardwick Electric Dept. to build a microgrid
- The Craftsbury Outdoor Center is looking into building a microgrid

4. Window Insert sign-ups for 2022 Program:

- Below Zero Temp good for sign-ups! 11 Households Committed / 4 interested
- Number of inserts wanted by the 11 households is still a question
- 7 out of town households interested - Albany, Irasburg, Wolcott, Westfield, Hardwick
- Marketing: Door-to-door?, Table at Recycle with display? Genny Porch? Food Shelf, FPF
- Albany, Greensboro potential programs
 - We hope they will do their own program
 - Kevin, Ned and Craig willing to help people them do their inserts
 - Discussion about household vaccination status
 - consensus that our volunteers should not have to go into households of people if they are not vaccinated

- Nurture potential programs in other towns by allowing one initiative-taking homeowner to order inserts?
- Local Energy Committees (Glover, Sutton) are looking into finding Workshop Volunteers
 - From Banks, Real Estate agencies, Churches, Colleges, and such, whose businesses want their employees to do community volunteering
 - Members from neighboring Energy Committees available to help at workshops

5. Low Income Home Weatherization

- Summary of Efficiency Vt. Zoom Workshop
- Outreach: CEC could help people sign up for NETO programs.
- Catherine brought up problem of rental properties. Renters can't get reimbursed for work they do. If the Landlord isn't willing to do energy saving measures, renters suffer.

6. [Efficiency Vt's Better Buildings By Design annual in-person conference](#), this been moved to April 27 and 28

Next Craftsbury Energy Committee meeting: Thursday, 2/17/22 - 7 pm.