

Marshfield Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

June 7th, 2021 7:00pm

In attendance: Nick Seifert, Rich Phillips, Anne Miller, Wes Cate, Ellen Keene, Bob Atchinson

Agenda:

- Announcements
 - The Jaquith will be doing outdoor movies this summer.
- Agenda Additions
 - Twinfield update from Jamie Spector
 - Twinfield put out an RFP in the summer of 2020 for solar. They received two bids, and approved a proposal from Norwich Solar. The original project was in Barre, but by the time the RFP was received they had moved to another site which will be right next to the Danville school. It sounds like Cabot and Danville may also become offtakers for this project. The school will have a small educational array on campus for classroom tie-ins and other things like monitoring solar collection. Jamie recommended that we talk to Mark Mooney with any further questions, or else the facilities person for the.
 - Anne had a suggestion that promoting electric appliances like lawn mowers, would be an area where the committee could promote this.
- Approve Minutes
 - Motioned and seconded, and approved.
- Business
 - Plainfield Updates
 - May have old home days, TBD
 - Covid funds update
 - The Selectboard did not think any of this money would be usable for energy or weatherization related projects.
 - Committee Structure
 - Ad-hoc vs committee vs energy coordinator. Nick talked to Bobbie about this, but is waiting for more information.
 - Projects
 - Selectboard feedback
 - Additional solar
 - Nick attended the selectboard meeting on 6/1. They seemed open to adding solar. They had two requests: revisit and update the economics of the original three trackers. Then provide updated economics for adding enough solar to cover all town usage. Once we have these two things, we would present this information to the selectboard again and ask for them to add this as an article to the 2022 town meeting.
 - Weatherization of the fire department
 - An audit exists, and Rich believes the total cost was around \$4k to do the work. Bobbi recommended that we speak with the board of officers for the fire house to start the conversation about this. They have a building budget, so this would likely go through that process to be funded, and would therefore be part of their regular budget.
 - Nick will be following up with Will Schwartz about this.
 - Connecting the OSC boiler to the Town Garage
 - The town garage has a pretty new boiler. Running insulated water lines over there would be pretty expensive, so the return on this investment would likely be pretty bad. This did not seem like something the Seleboard wanted to pursue.
 - Weatherization of rentals

- Ellen and Rich met with Becca White (of Efficiency VT). They don't currently have any programs just for landlords at present. There are plenty of programs that landlords can qualify for that are going on. They then talked about how to approach this and discuss with the landlords. Rich suggested a letter to landlords, which they would start there. She thought education and tenant retention were good points to focus on. Also having additional landlords who have already done this as a reference / megaphone. The next step would be to have a meeting with a group of landlords to help share information. Becca mentioned that VECAN may have a program to help with engagement in this area.
- Rich mentioned there are around 8 or 9 rental units, and likely a similar number of buildings. Bobbi is going to screen the grand list to help figure out the next piece.
- Ellen spoke with Elaine Wang of the Barre Energy Committee. Elaine thought that making personal connections with the landlords would be the best approach to connect and get action on weatherization. Ellen reached out to Grace Vinson at CVRPC and will let us know what they recommend.
- Twinfield Pizza Oven
 - Wes has a form for request for use of school facilities. The assistant at Twinfield said it should be no problem to get some help to use it. They do have a masonry oven which was built as a project a while back. If we wanted to use this they would require that one of their staff members would be there to run it.
 - This would be for a community gathering of some sort for promoting EV's, energy efficiency, weatherization, etc.
 - There was a suggestion to combine this effort with Rich's suggestion for expanding the fall foliage festival, more on this below.
- Rich has suggested for a while having an old home day in Marshfield, similar to Plainfield. The basic concept would be to have each of the committees in town have some type of representation, and information about their committee's activities. It sounds like the selectboard is onboard with doing this along with the fall foliage festival.
 - Ellen likes the idea of combining this with the fall foliage festival to expand it a bit. She thought there might be a good tie-in with the community garden. She will plan to discuss with that group.
- Cabot EV Status
 - Bob not in attendance, so no update this time.
- Agenda for next meeting
 - Announcements
 - Agenda Additions
 - Approval of Minutes
 - Business
 - Town Solar update
 - Fire station update (if needed)
 - Weatherization of rentals
 - Fall Foliage Festival Gathering update
 - Committee Structure
 - Plainfield updates
 - Other Business (if needed)