

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
July 1st, 2024, 7:00pm
Old schoolhouse common & zoom

Members In attendance: Nick Seifert, Anne Miller, Mike Xenakis, Wes Cate

Public: Rich Phillips

- Public Comment
 - None
- Announcements
 - Night Sky program Wednesday at 6:30
 - Concert series starts Thursday, starts at 6:30
 - Library is raffling tickets for an e-bike. Tickets are \$20, talk to the library desk.
- Agenda modifications
 - OSC Kitchen grant monies and stove/fridge chat.
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Meeting minutes June motioned seconded and approved.
- Business:
 - Plainfield updates
 - No one present.
- MERP / OSC
 - Mike gave an update on MERP, basically no news. Seems like the report is being prioritized based on energy burden, so a bit slow. Currently expected in August timeframe.
 - A grant was received for the OSC to upgrade the kitchen appliances, around \$5000. VOSHA has said a new range is needed to replace the Gas stove, and the hope is to replace the refrigerator as well. Mike is helping to look for a new stove.
 - Anne mentioned that the energy committee should involve Corinne and Sarah, who are most involved in community supper.
 - Mike mentioned that the preferred appliance type would be an electric range. Wes commented that an outlet, or other electrical work would be needed. Mike reached out to Jacob Gouge about installing an outlet.
 - Nick asked about the VOSHA report, and what it says. Anne mentioned that she has an email copy of it, and can share. Anne says Susan should have a digital copy. Nick will reach out to Susan and ask for a copy.
 - Anne mentioned when she was in that area the other day she found a knob just on. She also mentioned people have found burners on randomly without use.
 - Mike mentioned a personal preference for an induction range. This means the grant may not be adequate to cover the expense of a new induction / electric range. Anne mentioned that there are some Efficiency Vermont incentives for induction / electric ranges.
 - Mike will be doing some research to make a suggestion for an induction range and will share this with the list when he has a suggestion.
 - Nick will take a look into a refrigerator and check current incentives. 21ft² is the size, but he doesn't have any measurements.

- Enhanced Energy Plan?
 - No real update. Should be more next month.
- More solar for Marshfield
 - Nick gave an update on talking with the selectboard last month, and their support of adding solar in some way shape or form. They asked to wait and see what the result of the MERP audit is before making a recommendation.
 - Next steps are to wait for MERP report, and then make a recommendation to the Select Board.
 - Mike mentioned that there is a MERP mini grant available to pay for looking into things like.
- Legislative updates
 - Wes asked about the Veto session. No one recalled details from it.
- Funding opportunities
 - Anne mentioned she has not had time to look into EV charging grants, the garden has been her occupation.
 - Mike gave a brief update on some residential incentives. Efficiency VT has changed the income limits for their rebates, the income thresholds are much higher, so this means overall a lot more people are eligible for incentives.
 - Mike also mentioned that home energy star incentives are being updated. There is a contractor meeting coming up in a month or so which he is aware of related to installing new outlets, plumbing, etc., and trying to figure out how to help pay for these with incentives as well.
- Survey questions, and how this is delivered / administered.
 - Rich spoke briefly, after the last meeting he had a shift in focus to Martin Bridge, this fell by the wayside.
 - Plan to discuss this next time.
- Recruitment plan: How, when, who, etc.
 - Same as above, more work for next time!
 - Rich plans to discuss with other towns and see what they have done for recruitment, to find out what has worked for them.
 - Plan to discuss this next time.
- Town Activities:
 - Foliage Festival
 - Nick asked what folks have seen in other energy fairs that draw people, or are interesting, or providing good information.
 - Wes mentioned that at an energy fair he attended he found an exhibition on building energy details, and a history of some building construction methods quite interesting.
 - Mike mentioned that his company has TimberHP products available, and they have a panel which they bring to conferences, they can talk about straw panel construction, they

- have brochures. Mike can ask about having the New Frameworks panels, and other information. He said they also have samples of different insulation / displays.
- Wes commented that the thing he liked best were sections of wall which showed the history of construction. Nick asked if Wes knew who had presented this, and if we could invite them to Marshfield. Wes thinks it was a community group.
 - Mike mentioned the idea of raffling an energy audit. Wes asked what resources, or how we would do this. Mike said he would consider volunteering to do this, and has a blower door, etc.. he'll have to think about this.
 - Wes mentioned he also saw a display of “advanced high insulation walls” which had failed early in their life because the technology was not thoroughly developed.
 - Anne suggested inviting window dressers. Much assent that this was a good idea.
 - Anne also mentioned the Marshfield Historical society has some idea about presenting steam engines possibly maybe, and this sounds interesting.
 - Nick mentioned Efficiency Vermont, and getting someone from there to attend.
 - Nick also mentioned Beta Technologies. Some agreement that this would be interesting and people are interested. Wes said he would try to speak with his Nephew who works there.
 - Mike Xenakis suggested an electric vs induction stove “drag race”.
 - Concert series
 - Briefly discussed this. Anne mentioned that a lot of people hanging out and talking, and would be a very good opportunity to expose people to information.
 - Nick will reach out to Bekah Kuster about if they would be available to table.
 - Future areas of work
 - Anne is interested in any funding opportunities for EV charging infrastructure.
 - Recruitment - Rich
 - Survey - Rich
 - Upper Winooski community solar
 - VFD driven pumps / efficiency of village waste and water facilities
 - Areas of education / interaction with community members around heat, energy, efficiency, climate, etc.
 - Electric vehicle charging at the OSC
 - New members!

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