

Present: Will Dodge, Natalie Braun, Dottie Bergendahl, David Skopin, Geetha Ganesan, Mukesh Kumar

Not Present: Shawn McNamara

ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Draft Minutes from 04/10/2024 and 04/22/2024
 - a. No minutes were recorded for the 4/22/24 meeting as this was an in-person meeting with the legislators.
 - b. WD suggested we add the presentation and the recording as the documentation for the 4/22/24 meeting.**
- B. Vacancies
 - a. EECC is a 7-member committee.
 - b. WD to work with Town officials to formally appointing Shawn to the Essex Energy and Climate Committee**

SUBSTANTIVE

- 1. Feedback from 5/6 Selectboard Meeting re: Interaction / Communication with Municipal Committees
 - a. DB gave an update on what was discussed at the Selectboard meeting.
 - i. One of the questions was “is it disruptive to have a selectboard member in the committee meetings?”
 - ii. Select board is asking for a meeting with Essex Energy and Climate committee once a year (**WD to discuss**)
 - iii. Select board would like the chair of every committee to evaluate the staff representative from the Town in each committee (**WD to discuss**)
- 2. Follow-Up from Meeting with April 22 Legislators / Op-Ed Article
 - a. Op-ed topics proposed
 - i. Recap of the presentation
 - ii. Renewable energy standard (H289)
 - iii. S259 – climate super fund

- iv. S-305 overview that was slated for last week (4/6)
- v. Mention about the new PUC chair

WD will take the first step to create the draft Op-Ed and the team would edit and provide feedback.

3. Municipal Incentives: EVs / Solar Resources, MERPDA Funding, Solar for All

- a. **WD will follow up with Town in procuring electric vehicles to replace their gasoline trucks for the town owned transportation where applicable. Any grant options to help with procurement?**
- b. **WD to invite the DPS to come talk to the Energy Committee to discuss Solar for All program, how it is planned to be implemented and how the Towns and Municipalities can help with that.**

4. CVF Event / Alternatives

- a. The team brainstormed ideas on whether to keep it small with small booth for 5 days of the fair or expand and invite other energy teams to have a bigger showcase collaborating together.
- b. Initial inquiry did not fetch a lot of support to putting a bigger show.
- c. Williston Energy Coordinator seemed to be enthusiastic in participating.
- d. Sean would like to put on a bigger event.
- e. DB suggested creating a focused agenda with 3-4 key initiatives that benefited the community. Include options for renters.
- f. NB suggested having a call with the people who volunteered last year and talk about the plan. WD suggested the following towns to call
 - i. South Burlington
 - ii. Richmond
 - iii. Williston
 - iv. Colchester

g. DS has the phone numbers and emails of the contacts for the first level of communications.

h. WD to respond to Ann Janda's email.

5. Charter Changes

- a. WD has requested Lorraine to be part of the breakfast meeting.
 - b. WD is looking for volunteers to go along with him to the breakfast meeting on May 20th at 8 am. GG volunteered if no one else can go.
6. Status of Solar Discussions with Town
- a. Town is going out to RFP to get bids from as many solar providers.
 - b. Greg D wants to get a picture of town's energy usage
 - c. Goal for 2032 is to increase Energy production from renewables from ~12MWh to ~21MWh (Thank you CCRPC for the data)
 - d. Energy Committee discussed benefits of leasing the land vs. selling it. Recommendations to the town may be to lease the land with the lease \$ going to the rec. and the solar generation promoting the community solar initiative.
 - e. DS had a good question on where Essex would expand with solar to meet the growth requirements.
 - i. Enhanced Energy plan would be a way to list the possibilities for the expansion to meet the growing energy demands for 2032 (+8MWh), 2040 (+50MWh), 2050 (+71MWh). Current being ~12MWh. This data was from 2021.
7. New Municipal Complex – Stakeholder Events
- a. Reviewed the proposal for the new town building proposal.
 - b. WD to reach out to the design firm working on the design of the new town office building to ensure they are in line with the Town's energy goals (support EV charging, solar panels, LEED certification, net zero etc...)**
8. Other Business

Next meeting planning topic – Possibly discuss bringing GMP and VEC for discussion on programs, services they offer the Essex community can take advantage of.