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MIDDLEBURY  
MIDDLEBURY, VT

Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes 8/10/20 @ 5 pm Zoom

Attending - Shirley McCarthy, Greg Ames, Bob Babcock, Elena Cahill, Bill Horne, Sharon Huttner, John Prins, Dan Rabin, Diana McCarthy-Bercury (staff);

Guests: Michael Cohen, Eunice Mahler, Donna Laich, Jim Killelea, Perry Maresca, Wayne Cooke, Martin Tipton (working with Dan Rabin on publicity)

1. Bob Babcock moved to approve the minutes of 7/27/20 meeting, seconded by John Prins, approved unanimously.
2. Energy Plan Update: Greg Ames reported that the draft plan has been sent to the First Selectman who has submitted it to the Board of Selectmen for consideration; Wayne Cooke expressed concerns about the process of generating the draft plan.
3. Buildings: Greg Ames reported briefly on communications with Public Building Committee and Animal Shelter project planners. He noted specifically that the committee is proposing establishing a Town energy standard and the protection of energy items within the budget. Diana McCarthy-Bercury reported on a meeting with the Animal Shelter team and Eversource representatives about resources available for planning energy efficiency and incentives to assist with cost, and that the information was well received by the Animal Shelter team.
4. Green Bank update: Shirley McCarthy reported that the Green Bank wants to start projects with schools in First Quarter 2021. John Prins thought that this could be a reasonable timeline, contingent on other issues (COVID, etc). Diana McCarthy-Bercury and John Prins discussed the recent request for a meeting by the Green Bank to confirm the timeline for the solar installations proposed through the Solar MAP program and submitted to the ZREC auction.
5. Campaigns/publicity: Dan Rabin presented options for a committee logo and discussed possible content for publicity. Bob has organized a Zoom meeting with Rotary to present the committee and specifically the Home Energy Solutions (HES) and HeatSmart program. Sharon pointed out the difficulty of installation of anything that goes through the walls of condominium units; in some condo associations, the association would have to be a partner, which is often very difficult to achieve. However, they should be encouraged to have an energy audit. There was extensive discussion about engaging neighborhood associations and homeowner associations and other considerations. John Prins mentioned that it would be useful to research other condo communities

that have already successfully installed solar panels Eunice Mahler is working on getting publicity out generally. Dan introduced Martin Tipton and how he is assisting with publicity.

6. HeatSmart update: Michael Cohen reported on development of a spreadsheet presenting typical savings achieved by different types of houses from different phases of improvements (HES, deep energy improvements, installation of heat pumps), including available financial incentives. Multiple planning meetings involving members of the HeatSmart team and various partners are scheduled.
  
7. EVs: school buses: S Huttner reported on working with Daphne Dixon and Kelsey McCormack on school bus fleet electrification. The recent storm required postponement of a scheduled meeting with First Student, the contractor for school buses. It will be rescheduled. Bob Babcock spoke a while ago with Branford's Police Chief about how Westport has acquired EVs; the Chief felt that he needed more information. Bob will follow up with him after contacting Westport sources for information.

Follow up: Bob Babcock reported on the previous status of EV acquisitions by Town budgeted this year, specifically for the Assessor's Office, Diana McCarthy-Bercury will check on whether the EV RFP has gone out.

8. New Business - Dan Rabin will add committee members to the Branford Forum email list. It was suggested that the committee might do a Forum presentation at some point.
  
9. Public comments - Wayne Cooke completed his comments about process of development of the energy plan, he feels that there should have been opportunity for various members of the community to comment. Shirley McCarthy indicated that there would be such opportunity.

Sharon Huttner moved to adjourn, Bob Babcock seconded, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Horne