

2/7/2022 Glover Energy Committee

Present: Jack Sumberg, Ann Creaven, Sara Gluckman, Angela Daniels, Heather Clark, and Mariel Hess

### **NEK REGIONAL ENERGY COMMITTEES MEETING**

A number of us joined the NEK Regional Energy Committees Meeting (virtual) on Monday, January 31. **Watch the recording [here](#) and see slides attached.**

#### Takeaways:

- Sutton has undertaken a door-to-door campaign to provide residents with information on how to make positive energy saving changes in their homes and lives. We are inspired by this and agree to try this in Glover. Sara, Ann, and Mariel will work on a plan. Materials to include: Info on NETO, Efficiency Vermont rebates, etc, Window Dressers. There is a software program geared to this neighbor-to-neighbor approach which we might want to consider.
- The equity focus was well done. See energy justice tools and resources [here](#). The Scoring Rubric (<https://iejusa.org/scorecard/>) is something we might try to apply in our various undertakings as a committee. There is a Dartmouth Course on this that is free, something one or more of us might want to consider enrolling in: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/energy-justice>.
- Proposal to have a Regional Energy Fair that would be hosted by a different town every year was considered another really good idea.
- Window Dressers - taking advantage of successful advertisements was discussed. Kevin Gregoire of Craftsbury Energy Committee has accumulated an ad "library" which he is willing to share. See <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#search/label%3A+label%3Aglover-energy-committee-window-dressers/QgrcJHsbflhTIZGfcxIFvLWRDNPrgTLDtRb> and <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kX2QpDNDLjDkP-3MqnCdKzAVwFA0kx7S1ywsSeiVq6s/edit>

## **NETO**

Angela reached out to NETO folks and invited Buddy Hall, Assistant Weatherization (WX) Director and Area Coordinator in St. J, and new NETO Executive Director, Shanna Smith, to join us via ZOOM at our next Energy Committee Meeting (2/21/2022 at 4pm) to share where NETO is putting its energy and to see how we can work with them. We understand they are trying to hire and train new people to do weatherization in a more timely manner. We will ask them about giving window insert info to their customers.

## **ENERGY STORAGE WEBINAR**

Webinar, Feb. 8th at 7pm hosted by NVDA and GMP (Green Mountain Power) - especially for GMP customers but worth checking out. Register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Y4IQzQpVRzGVLqhTEOGpOQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y4IQzQpVRzGVLqhTEOGpOQ) Perhaps it will motivate us to encourage VEC - our own energy company - to do something like it. Per Angela, VEC does have a battery storage program. Doesn't take more than 50% of what's in the battery. If you give them access to it they give you something (credit?) for what they take.

## **SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT**

Waiting for PUC to respond to MOU - to either approve or turn down - or something else. On the table is an offer to pay \$3750.00 that Norwich Solar would pay VEC and other affected utilities. That agreement was reached between Norwich Solar and VEC and they are asking PUC to approve.

OF NOTE: We (Glover) will not be able to claim that we run on renewable energy, VEC gets to claim it. Norwich Solar will turn the recs over to VEC - and they will count toward VEC's goal for renewable power.

According to the Climate Policy Action Panel, the utilities have the prerogative to sell the recs. Recs from Lowell Wind, for example, can be sold by GMP. There is controversy over this policy here in Vermont. Recs get sold to Mass, NY, and other states that have a lot more demand for renewable energy - and when they buy the recs (power) they are not

obligated to build the renewable energy projects. This practice is referred to as “Green-washing.”

Increased electrical needs go along with renewable energy development which poses the general dilemma of where do we get the electricity to power more heat pumps, more EV’s, etc. which is an ultimate goal of the Energy Action Plan.

### **SCHOOL CHALLENGE (“Climate Report Card for our Schools”)**

VT Digger article(<https://vtdigger.org/2022/01/02/a-climate-report-card-for-our-schools/>) describes a program that “ invites students from across the state to collect data, stories and interviews, comprising an evaluation of their schools’ progress toward sustainability. Participation is open to students in middle school, high school and college.is to get students involved in assessing the energy efficiency of their school.”

There is interest among Glover students but no one has stepped forward from the faculty, administration, or parents group to provide leadership on this. There are times during the school day where such a program could be implemented if not right into a classroom curriculum: During afternoon program or library time or lunch time. The Glover School would be receptive but needs someone to lead. Sara Gluckman said she would do it but can’t due to covid concerns. We will continue to look for ways this might be initiated.

### **H.518**

“This bill would provide support to municipalities for switching out inefficient and fossil-fired heating equipment and making weatherization and efficiency improvements. Specifically, the bill would establish a Municipal Fuel Switching Grant program to provide technical assistance and award grants and loans to municipalities for replacing fossil fuel heating systems with renewable and cleaner, more efficient ones. It would also create staff capacity at regional planning commissions to facilitate implementation of this work.” The bill

proposes support to do assessment of municipal buildings and funding up to \$200,000.

With municipal \$ becoming available we discuss what projects would make sense to use the money for in our community. Specifically switching out fossil fuel-using equipment.

Town Hall? Doing a big project in Town Hall might not make sense because it's not used that much although the furnace in Town Hall is ~ 20-30 yrs old. Some work has been done in that building.

Town Garage? Not sure it would make sense given the type of heat required there. If our solar array project gets turned down we might consider doing something that would actually be owned by the town like solar panels on the Town Garage. But there are limitations with this because not a lot of room and way out at end of single phase line. Garage has dehumidifiers that require a lot of energy. Heat is presently propane-fired infrared

Municipal Building? This is the one that is used all the time. We did change the heating system and insulated the cellar in 2013 or 2014. Hard to figure out how to make more improvements in that building. Looked for possibilities but not much found other than what they had already done - insulation in walls, etc. Maybe doing another assessment? Window Inserts might help - but installation, taking out, and storage of them would have to be managed by someone - not left to the Town Clerk. Replacing existing windows would be very expensive. Window Inserts would give you a lot more benefit for the cost.

Senior Housing? Owned by Rural Edge - anything that would happen there would need to go through Rural Edge. Rural Edge has office in Lyndonville. One could call and ask what they're energy thinking is.

Firestation? Potential spot but roof slopes the wrong way.

### **AARP GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

[https://vtdigger.org/press\\_release/aarp-vermont-accepting-2022-community-challenge-grant-applications/?u=b022ed54dd&utm\\_source=VTDigger+Subscribers+and+Donors&utm\\_campaign=75f336aac5-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2022\\_01](https://vtdigger.org/press_release/aarp-vermont-accepting-2022-community-challenge-grant-applications/?u=b022ed54dd&utm_source=VTDigger+Subscribers+and+Donors&utm_campaign=75f336aac5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_01)

While this might be something for the Energy Committee to pursue, we decide instead to bring it to the attention of the Glover Planning Commission which is working on a Town Green and Village Center Enhancement Project - as a possible resource for helping to support the next step in that project.

### **BIKE PATH PLANS**

"The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, a 93-mile trail spans the breadth of Northern Vermont from the Connecticut River Valley to within two miles of Lake Champlain. The LVRT is a four-season, multi-purpose recreation and transportation corridor for walking, hiking, cycling, horseback riding, snow-shoeing, x-c skiing, and snowmobiling." The trail is due to be completed by 2023. Unfortunately there are no plans to come north toward us.

### **ARPA FUNDS**

#### **NOAH ARMSTRONG**

We learn that he is still active on the CUD.

#### **THERMAL IMAGING**

There is an app that you can hook onto your cellphone. Would this be something to use some of our Town Funding to acquire?

**NEXT MEETING** Feb. 21st at 4 pm via zoom.

