

## 5/2/2022 Glover Energy Committee Minutes

Present: Jack Sumberg, Ann Creaven, Angela Daniels, Mariel Hess, and Guest Michael Ziegler

### **EV Charging Station**

- Mike is interested in getting EV Charging Station(s) installed in Glover.
- Cost of Level 3 Charging Station - which is the best in terms of speed - runs from \$20,000- \$30,000. Level 2 runs from \$10,000 - \$20,000.
- Mike is willing to discuss with Glover Planning Commission and look into possible funding sources (ARPA, grant programs, no-interest loans, state and federal incentives, electric company incentives, etc.) and report back to this committee. He is also willing to help with grant writing
- Critical thing is finding suitable location(s) for accessible year round use. Needs to be in a place where snow removal can easily be done. Potential sites include Town Green, Curriers, Town Office, Glover School, Parker Pie, in front of Town Hall, near West Glover Ambulance Bay.
- We invite Mike to join our committee. He will consider, but in any case is willing to get involved with bringing this into being.

### **Biomass**

- Concern raised by Glover Resident Carol Young about biomass, specifically wood pellets, for heating her home. She decided against it after watching the documentary, "Burned: Are Trees the New Coal?" ([pbs.org/video/burned-are-trees-the-new-coal-p9zt/](https://www.pbs.org/video/burned-are-trees-the-new-coal-p9zt/) ) While biomass has been touted as environmentally better than coal, gas or oil for heating, the film claims that using biomass as heat source is more detrimental than beneficial to the environment. It claims that burning wood puts more CO2 in the air than burning coal.
- We acknowledge that there are more than one side to the argument.
- It's true that trees are more renewable than coal.
- What must be considered is whether the cutting rate of trees is faster than the growing rate. In places like New England - the cutting rate is likely not faster than the growing rate. But there's definitely a dispute over this.
- If not overharvesting - is it not then a good direction to be going?

- Most of our fuel energy comes from burning natural gas - including that derived from fracking
- Previously coal-fired electrical generating stations in Europe are being converted to burning wood chips sourced from the SE US.
- Scale of production is important to look at. What's happening in the Southeast of the US - where the documentary focuses - huge amounts of wood are being logged and sent to other countries to be made into wood chips. But what's happening in New England is on a much smaller scale - so not likely as detrimental to the environment.
- Important for the consumer to know where their wood pellets are coming from.
- Glover Town Hall pellets are coming from Maine or other parts of Northern New England.
- Overall goal is to change from less clean to more clean sources of energy, transition from fossil fuels to renewables.
- Vermont **Biomass Renewable Energy Standard Act** (adopted 1/26/2022) make's sure that wood sourced for "advanced" wood heat is sustainable/renewable. Rules would apply to producers of the wood fuels. How are they being held accountable?
- There are 3 pellet factories in VT. 75% of wood pellets come from outside VT including from Canada.
- Wood chips and wood pellets are a good utilization of the lowest grades of wood. Again overall benefits depend on what the scale of operation is.
- Our response to Carol Young's concerns: If her house is not suitable for heat pumps then wood pellets would make sense. We'd suggest an energy audit.

### **Solar Array**

- We are still awaiting the contract from Norwich Solar that the Select Board will have to sign before building the array can begin.

### **NETO and Window Inserts**

-Angela reports she's not yet been in touch with Dan at NETO but intends to soon.

### **Window Dressers**

-Pat Sagui of Westfield has expressed interest in getting a window insert program started there. She's going to do some outreach and hopefully a crew from Westfield will join in the Glover Community Build to make their inserts. Jack will do the measuring for Westfield orders.

-Jack reports he's gotten some interest in inserts from several places - which he attributes to the article that appeared in the "Home, Building & Real Estate Supplement" of The Chronicle on April 20, 2022.

-Sara, Ann, and Mariel will plan a door-to-door effort to get word out about window inserts.

**Next meeting** Monday, May 16th at 4pm via zoom.

Submitted by Mariel Hess