

# Strafford Energy Committee (SEC) Meeting Minutes

7/10/18

7:30 PM

Town Office meeting room

**Meeting called by:** Doc Bagley

**Type of meeting:** SEC regular meeting

**Facilitator:** Doc Bagley

**Note taker:** Jim Schley

**Attendees:** Doc Bagley, Janet Cavanagh, Kevin Grady, David Lutz, Jason Stableford, Tii McLane, Barbara Smith, Jim Schley

**Next Meeting:** — August 14, 2018: Energy Committee meeting

## *Minutes*

### **Agenda items:**

#### **1. Minutes:**

Approve last meeting's minutes with one correction: Jason Stableford was present at June meeting.

2.

#### **New England Grassroots Environmental Fund:**

They are a potential funder for projects and events. They have given grants to the Pocket Park and to a Local Foods event at the café. At our last meeting, Gus mentioned the idea of hosting an event with Rosi Kerr to talk about sustainability goal-setting. ACTION ITEM: Janet will look into what they've been funding to see if they might be a source of support for one of our projects..

3.

#### **Weatherizing Campaign:**

Doc has filled out the application for Efficiency Vermont's "Button Up" program, which Vital Communities is now going to be collaborating on, instead of doing their own separate program. Doc has created a Button Up folder on our GoogleDocs. This would mean that we wouldn't need to pair up with other towns, which Vital Communities had required. Doc has heard that they're encouraging "Home Energy Parties" to publicize availability of home-energy audits and weatherization services, including with subsidies. ACTION ITEM: Doc will be contacting Sarah Brock and Paul Markowitz to learn more about the structure and timing of the Button Up program.

4.

**Two Rivers Action Coalition (TRAC):** Tii McLane described the origins of the group, which includes people from five towns (Strafford, Sharon, South Royalton, Royalton, Tunbridge). They had a training on "People Power" with Vanessa Rule, and their focus began with political initiatives, including the town meeting resolution, organizing public meetings with legislators, and collaboration with energy committees on climate-related actions, including real progress on state goals for renewables and conservation and possibly the Essex Plan. TRAC is associated with 350.org-Vermont, who have eight people working on projects. TRAC is still exploring its most effective role; Janet expressed a belief that TRAC's main role is making sure that legislators are held to accountability on environmental issues and making sure that voters are informed about legislators' positions (or lack of positions).

NOTE: There will be a forum on Sunday, July 29, 3–5 pm at the Town House featuring the four candidates for governor: James Elhers, Christine Hallquist, Brenda Siegel, and Ethan Sonneborn (Sponsored by the Orange County Democrats.)

5.

#### **July 7 EV parade and information table report:**

Not everyone realized when the cars were going around the parade that they were electric. The line-up at the end of the green was really informative. We weren't very effective with our Home Heating survey. Doing this at the recycling center in the fall seems much more promising, and by then we'll have more information on what will be offered in terms of funding and financial assistance.

6. **Elizabeth Mine Solar tour** with Rosi Kerr's group of Dartmouth students, Ed Hathaway from the EPA, and a representative from Brightfields. Doc attended as well. The students wanted to know how the town responded, and Doc explained that ultimately there was agreement that it was the right site for this. Doc also confirmed for us that the fans are noticeably loud, and the Brightfields fellow was going to be taking sound measurements at the Hebb-Thompson home.

7. **Home Heating Survey:**  
The survey is now available for use at events and for outreach. ACTION: Jim may bring the survey to the Candidates Forum on July 29.

8. **Pocket Park update: Barbara**  
The kiosk is now up. There was an item on the Select Board agenda about a "Pocket Park liquor license," which stirred some people up, but it was for only one-time events, for instance a fundraising party of some kind featuring Brocklebank beer. Or a sculpture exhibit? Send Barbara ideas. They'd like to have some kind of sign or gate identifying "Eva's Blueberries."

They are generating expenses, and Barbara has been putting her own money in. If people are having events with more than 10 people, they're encouraged to make a donation. ACTION ITEM: Jim offered to help with a letter to the Byrne Foundation requesting a grant.

9. **Thetford Energy Committee** — Zero-Energy VerMod event: July 14, 10 am to 3 pm at Thetford Academy. They would also like to co-sponsor with us some kind of eco-transportation event in the fall.

10. **Two River Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) and Enhanced Energy Plan:** The plan is almost ready for review; we will probably want to present this to the Selectboard in person. As noted in previous minutes, we need to have 45 acres of town land dedicated to energy-production. We still don't know if we can count any portion of the Elizabeth Mine for town-generated renewable energy (many people in town believe that the mine should be considered "our share" for the renewables requirements). Micki Colbeck is working on maps. When we're ready to present, it will be best to first present to the Planning Commission, ideally get their endorsement, then present the new plan to the Selectboard.

### Other Business:

#### 11. **Storm-window workshop idea**

Doc has been talking with Bob Walker about a project we could coordinate where people could bring their measurements and we'd help them cut the frames and assemble, then they could go home and pop them in. ACTION ITEM: Doc and Kevin will look into the Maine group that organized a project like this (there's a video online).

#### 12. **Vermont "Community Energy Dashboard"** (<https://www.vtenergydashboard.org/>):

ACTION ITEM: Doc will investigate whether this is a coalition we'd benefit from joining.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Schley.