

DRAFT

## **Gilmanton Energy Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Gilmanton Year Round Library

Gilmanton, NH

6 p.m.

Present: Dick de Seve, Sue Hale de Seve, Cyndi Paulin, Aimee Ruiter, Vincenzo Sisti, Sarah Thorne

Chair Sarah Thorne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Review and approval of January minutes.

**Gilmanton School LED project:** We began the discussion with Aimee discussing the Gilmanton School LED project. The project was approved, and the students will sell LED light bulbs at the school, with the proceeds going to the school. Erin Hollingworth and Katie Bass, teachers at the school, are heading up the project. Sarah thought it would be good to meet with the teachers to determine how to maintain interest in the subject and determine the best use of the proceeds. The school is building an outdoor classroom, with a gazebo and a poolless waterfall. Will be solar powered. Sarah suggested working with the students to research how much the solar panel(s) would cost, determine how much money they would need to raise (budget) to pay for it. Aimee: are there any funds (grants) available through the state or one of the energy providers in Gilmanton. How will it be publicized? Short article in the Laconia Sun? Include photo of the students along with the article? Aimee will research grant availability.

Dick: discussed meeting and touring the Unix(?) company plant in Laconia to see how they build solar generators. Sarah suggested we wait until they are up and running before we go on a tour. Also, how about asking other energy committees in the area to attend? Dick will check with the owner about that.

**Canterbury solarize program:** Ruth Heath of the Canterbury energy committee talked with Sarah about that, and we will be inviting Ruth to our March meeting. Sarah described the community solar program that is based on marketing solar at a larger scale. A number of communities have done similar projects. We could help organize such a program, without having to fund it. PAREI (Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative) was discussed and where they serve. Sarah will invite Rep. Saunderson (Loudon) from the Science, Technology and Energy Committee to the next meeting.

We now have a page on the Gilmanton town website. Sarah had difficulty accessing the website and contacting the SAU by phone. There was some discussion about the committee having a Facebook page. We discussed the fact that one can access a Facebook page without joining Facebook. Aimee is willing to set up a Facebook page for the committee.

**Conflict of Interest policy:** we reviewed the draft policy, and with a couple of minor grammatical changes, approved the policy. We will give final approval and all sign the policy at the next committee

meeting.

**Other Opportunities:** Old Town Hall upgrades to include real energy efficiency upgrades. Get on the next School Board meeting agenda to determine if the Board would be open to an energy audit. There are a number of companies that could perform such an audit. We thought we should meet with the NHEC contact for school audits, the school principal, Joe Irving (facility manager) and Katie Bass and Erin Hollingworth from the Gilmanton School to discuss needs and opportunities.

**Energy Use Research:** Vincenzo Sisti. Has an outline about the Gilmanton School energy usage, has plans to contact Joe Irving about volume of use and costs for the school, and some other energy use by other town buildings. Discussed that all NH energy providers are part of NHSaves. Good contacts for going forward with energy efficiency programs, including some funding opportunities.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, March 31, 7 p.m. April 21, 7 p.m. Location will likely be at the Gilmanton School.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick de Seve, secretary.