

DRAFT

Gilmanton Energy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Remote Meeting via Teleconference

Gilmanton, NH

6 p.m.

Present: Dick de Seve, Sue Hale-de Seve, Cyndi Paulin, Aimee Ruiter, Vincenzo Sisti, Sarah Thorne, Nate Abbott excused absence.

Chair Sarah Thorne called the meeting to order at shortly after 6 p.m.

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Review and approval of July minutes. Aimee Ruiter moved, Vincenzo Sisti seconded approval as amended.. Amend: Where discuss website with Solarize website, include link. ZBA granted a variance for the solar website, not a SE. Adopted.

Vincenzo: first commercial export solar site received variance for location at Crystal Lake. Will include a bee hive. Will initially power 5-6 homes at Crystal Lake.

Sarah: Granite Bridge pipeline is done.

Sarah: is everyone OK with adding the Solar FAQs to the Energy Committee website. Sarah will call Nate to see if he can put those on the website.

Vincenzo: update on Gilmanton Energy Use report. Made clearer to read. Clarified the section that shows two entities spending \$30/month, which is the NH Electric Cooperative connection charge. Includes Energy Committee recommendations going forward. Sarah: may want to add some columns for electricity usage for heating. Vincenzo says that would be very difficult to break the different usages out. Vincenzo says that should come out in an audit. Vincenzo is creating a list of questions to bring up with the Selectmen when we meet with them. Vincenzo will add 2018 and 2017 energy usage and cost numbers to the chart to show how that usage and cost has changed over time. Sarah is trying to determine the percentage of town spending on energy usage.

Recommendations: Vincenzo believes the current recommendations are fairly complete. We really need that comprehensive energy audit to determine what the Town's options for future energy efficiency steps are. Sarah: since we use energy in so many separate locations, an expert can help us work through that. New selectman is Evan Collins, who is also an electrician who is interested in solar power and can understand this data very well. Aimee: do we want to add a recommendation to remove unused meters? Vincenzo says we need to wait on that, as that can be expensive, but we definitely need to bring that issue to the attention of the Selectmen. There also may be a good reason to keep those meters in place. Sarah: let's keep their focus on the larger solar picture, and leave specifics for another time. Vincenzo: SENSE program can track energy usage hour by hour and day by day. Give a really full understanding of energy use. The NH Coop may have a program for that, at least for residential

usage.

Sarah: next question is when will we be ready to meet with the Selectmen? Vincenzo: there may be another Selectmen's meeting after our next GEC meeting. The next Selectmen's meeting may be September 14, but Sarah will check on that. Sarah thanked everyone for their work on the Energy Report and asked Vincenzo to speak for the GEC at that meeting.

Aimee: new request for Carbon pricing and payback to individuals. Carbon Cashback Coalition is proposing warrant articles on this issue, and we can find additional information at their site, and through Aimee's information.

Sarah suggested we need to parcel out tasks to help to put together an October public meeting. Sue and Dick will continue to attempt to contact the Belmont Conservation Commission. Sarah says that the Town of Hanover has done a great deal of work in this area, and has a Sustainability Coordinator. Cyndi says we just need to do what we can do, and hope that others can be drawn into this effort, as we all have other tasks that we need to do. Vincenzo: good idea to try to get members of other boards to work on this with us. Aimee suggests that having a general plan based on the Vital Communities checklist so that people can sign up for what they can do. Aimee will work to adapt that checklist to our work here in Gilmanton. Vincenzo has seen a great increase in interest in solar power in Gilmanton in the past few months. We should be able to tap into that interest.

Aimee: on the Solarize campaign, she needs some sense of timeline. We hope to have the public meeting in October. Vincenzo says we should try to have an RFP out for construction of some solar installs by December, 2020. Hope to begin install by the end of April, 2021. Would have until the end of December 2021 to take advantage of the Federal tax credit.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m. Location will again be via remote teleconferencing.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick de Seve, secretary.