Approved

**Gilmanton Energy Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Remote Meeting via Teleconference

Gilmanton, NH

7 p.m.

Present: Dick de Seve, Sue Hale-de Seve, Cyndi Paulin, Aimee Ruiter, Vincenzo Sisti, Sarah Thorne, Nate Abbott, Graham Wilson, Elise Smith.

Nate Abbott called the meeting to order at shortly after 7 p.m.

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Review and approval of June 23, 202l minutes. Sarah Thorne moved, Vincenzo Sisti seconded approval. Adopted.

Sarah Thorne reviewed the Energy Audit tours of various Town buildings. The staff were very supportive of the effort. The Resilient Buildings Group (RBG) representatives toured several Town buildings with Town staff and members of the Energy Committee on June 18 and June 22. RBG will then provide the audit proposal draft to present to the Committee.

Solarize Campaign Update: Cyndi gave the synopsis. The leads have slowed somewhat in the past month. No installations yet as the reviewer at NHEC has been on vacation for a month. Outreach: Cyndi suggested that the Energy Committee have a presence at Old Home Day, August 21. Nate volunteered to staff a booth, Sarah volunteered as well. Vincenzo can provide the tent and printed materials. Connor may be available, as well. We need to contact Judy Wilson regarding having a tent. We may be able to have the fee waived, otherwise it’s $25. Aimee will contact Ms. Wilson. Sarah asked about having a small solar panel that runs something; Vincenzo said he will provide a panel for the tent. Graham will ask a friend who has something similar to what was discussed earlier. Next Solarize Campaign event tentatively scheduled for the weekend after Labor Day (September 11), possibly have Sam Evans Brown speak; he is now Executive Director at Clean Energy NH. He also grew up in Gilmanton. May hold the event at the GYRL, take advantage of their solar panels and heat pump.

Next meeting: should it be in person? Vincenzo strongly urged an in person meeting when the Energy Audit is presented, so that the public can attend. Nate: where? Several suggestions were made. We settled on the Gilmanton School, Sarah will contact the school. Vincenzo will attend by ZOOM as he will be in Maine. Meeting there might assist in having Joe Irving attend.

Sarah: looking as to how to proceed once we receive the draft Audit proposal. One option would be to have the audit presented by RBG at a Selectmen’s meeting so they can see and ask questions. The other option would be to have our own public hearing. Nate: we probably owe the Budget Committee some information on this, and there is a question as to whether department heads should/would add this information into their budget proposals. Nate suggested attending a Selectmen’s meeting to have the RBG representatives present the Audit and ask the Selectmen to treat this cost as a separate item apart from departmental budgets. Cyndi: we definitely want the Selectmen engaged in the process, and have them buy into the effort. Once we have the audit, we can further schedule meetings, including the Selectmen’s meeting.

Joe Irving from the Gilmanton School joined the meeting at 7:39. He reported on what has been occurring at the Gilmanton School on energy issues. Covid jump started the discussion on ventilation upgrades at the School. Ventilators are high energy users. EEI spoke to the School Board, they audited the building, gave some results to the Board on July 13. Will be looking into updating the HVAC equipment. Try to incorporate heat recovery and air circulation, all through one motor, as opposed to 14 motors. One portion of the school has a ballasted roof (rocks hold roof in place). Due to be replaced in 2025, suggested putting solar on the roof at the time of roof replacement. The life expectancy of the roof would be the same as the solar panels, 25 years. EEI suggested some other, lower scale improvements in some other areas of the building. Hope to do late summer, or early in 2022. Joe explained that some of EEI’s suggestions are quite costly, without a great deal of definition on those issues. The School Board will contact the Turner Group who did an earlier audit, to see if they can provide more detail as to what exactly needs to be done and at what cost.

Nate: did you get a sense as to what you might need just to meet the Covid related items? Joe said they did not. The school did purchase some air filtration units that serve individual classrooms. This might add some energy usage, but it had to be done soon to get the students back into the classroom. Nate told Joe we’re hoping to hold our next meeting at the School and offered to help Joe in any way we could. We hope they can get an energy recovery unit, as it’s more energy efficient.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick de Seve, secretary.