

Approved

Gilmanton Energy Committee
Gilmanton Academy Building

January 19, 2022

Present: Nate Abbott, Sue Hale-de Seve, Dick de Seve, Sarah Thorne; via ZOOM: Aimee Ruiter.
Cyndi Paulin.

Meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

Nate made the obligatory opening announcements.

Minutes: Minutes from the December, 2021 meeting were reviewed.
Sarah moved their approval, Sue seconded. Approved.

2022 Budget: Sarah: Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the voters \$40,000 for weatherization program. This was a compromise, and we told the Committee we'd return next year for more funds to complete the program. There was no opposition at the Super Saturday meeting. Brian Forst suggested that we do a bond issue rather than a capital fund, to be paid by the savings on electric bills due to the solar programs. Sarah suggested we research similar programs in other town to establish this type of bond issue. Nate looked for our item in the Selectmen's budget, and the \$1,000 operating budget is included. This will allow us to start some projects this year.

Solarize Campaign: Aimee had nothing to report, but Nate's system has been inspected by the Town and they are waiting for the Coop to finally approve it. Nate spoke to Evan Collins and is writing up an article. Sarah suggested that Nate get a photo with the Coop inspector that could be included in the Coop newsletter, for better advertisement.

EERS Legal Issue: there is some legislation pending in the legislature to fund a NHSaves program. The House passed the bill unanimously and it is now in the Senate. The bill would put the funding level at the 2020 level until the lawsuits and appeals are settled. It could make some funding available for things like LED installation, saving \$18,000 and some more weatherization. Aimee read a note she received from a citizen who attended the hearing praising the bipartisan support for the bill.

Sarah: Get Out the Vote effort for our warrant article. Sarah would update a previous article so that it will come out in late February, prior to the Town SB2 meeting. She would like some more publicity on Facebook, possibly flyers for distribution at the Iron Works Market, the Year Round Library. Cyndi will design a flyer, possibly with assistance from other Committee members, for distribution. These should be also put on Gilmanton Facebook pages. Nate will see what he can do to put the information on those pages. Nate: on Election Day, March 8, have members hold a sign(s) urging voting for our warrant article. That will affect those who may not have read the warrant prior to voting. **Deliberative session is Saturday, February 5.** Our article is Article 11 in the Town Warrant.

Article 11: Energy Upgrades to Town Facilities To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for the purpose of finishing energy efficiency upgrades to various town facilities as identified in the energy audit completed in 2021. Recommended by the Selectmen.

New Business: HR 17, a resolution in opposition to a carbon tax: A RESOLUTION opposing all federal and state efforts to establish a carbon tax on fuels for electricity and transportation.

WHEREAS, affordable and abundant electricity is a strategic resource that is essential to modern life and America's economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the application of a carbon tax to gasoline and other transportation fuels will have a dramatic, immediate impact on transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, a carbon tax, by design, will result in substantial, immediate increases in the price of electricity, making electricity less affordable for millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, a carbon tax in the United States will have no impact on China, India, and other major sources of carbon emissions throughout the world, except to increase their competitiveness relative to the United States; and

WHEREAS, a carbon tax will put United States exporters and manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage by increasing domestic manufacturing production costs; and

WHEREAS, the sole purpose of the tax code should be to fund necessary government functions rather than to manipulate consumer decisions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the state of New Hampshire opposes all federal and state efforts to establish a carbon tax on fuels for electricity and transportation; and

That copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of representatives be forwarded to each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

Cyndi asked that all members contact their representatives to register their opposition to this resolution.

Tuesday, January 25, 7:00 on the GYRLA website, a lecture on loons by a biologist from the Loon Preservation Committee.

Meeting adjourned 7:05 p.m. Dick motioned, Sarah seconded the motion.

Next meeting February 16, 2022 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick de Seve, Secretary