

Approved

Gilmanton Energy Committee Meeting

Wednesday October 19, 2022

Academy Building

Gilmanton, NH

6:30 p.m.

Present: Sue Hale-de Seve, Aimee Ruiter, Dick de Seve, Elise Smith, Cyndi Paulin,

Sue opened the meeting at 6:30.

Review of minutes: Elise motioned, Cyndi seconded approval. Approved.

Since there was no one present who attended the Oct. 17 Selectboard meeting, we will move the report to the November meeting.

Cyndi and Aimee gave an update on the recent Energy Conference in Manchester. NH Municipal EV tool kit will be released soon. Keynote speaker: would we want to have community discussions around climate change in Gilmanton, and other communities? Discuss issues like flooding that has recently increased, agricultural effects of drought. What are assets in our town that could be threatened by climate change? Knowing that, what can we do about protecting those assets. Stronger building codes and greater efficiencies for buildings and homes were discussed, as well as solar energy. Clean Energy webinar on October 20. What are the balances among energy types, costs, needs that need to be addressed? Then decide top priorities to address. How do communities address potential energy siting issues? Aimee went to a workshop on heat pumps. One manufacturer did the design and installation for one community, which seems to be a novel situation. Some communities working on master plans have included an energy section. Some communities have passed resolutions to be fossil fuel free by 2030, with residents being fossil fuel free by 2050. Municipalities eligible for up to 50% tax credit for solar. Some ground mounted arrays are being built on either brownfield sites or on closed landfills. Performance based regulations, difficult concept. NH Electric Coop starting a project in January 2023, put out rates early, then those who have solar or other types of batteries can charge their battery when the rates are low in order to save money. Another project would ask large entities to voluntarily shut down production for a short time to help save energy, save them some money.

Chase Cournoyer was present, and Cyndi and Aimee discussed the level of interest in energy efficiency of various department heads in Gilmanton. There do appear to be funds available from various sources for energy efficiency projects.

2023 Public Education Opportunities: when the EV tool kit comes out we could have a presentation on its uses. Also try to put together a series of discussions on various energy efficiency programs by experts in the field. Discuss the progress the community has made so far on our energy efficiency programs.

Old Business: Wednesday, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21 Budget Committee meeting at the Academy, conflicts with our Energy Committee meetings. We discussed options for using downstairs offices or the hallway. Elise will look into options and let Nate know.

Next meeting is November 16, 2022.

Adjourned at 7:07.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick de Seve, secretary