

Approved

Gilmanton Energy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Academy Building

Gilmanton, NH

6:36 p.m.

Present: Sue Hale-de Seve, , Dick de Seve, Cyndi Paulin, Aimee Ruiter, Elise Smith. Vincenzo Sisti was absent.

Chair Aimee Ruiter opened the meeting with the standard announcements.

Minutes for the November meeting were reviewed. Elise motioned, Sue seconded. Approved.

Status on LED upgrade project. Heather Carpenter sent an email to Chase Cournoyer, Clerk of the Works on this project stating that she is now the point of contact now that Nate has left the committee. Contractor has been selected and paid the initial deposit. So far Heather has not received a response. Elise will check with Heather for further response so that the Committee is fully informed. Elise will also handle updating the website going forward.

Sue reported that she had spoken to Cathy Corkery, the executive director of the NH Sierra Club about participating in the proposed Earth Day energy efficiency event at the Year Round Library. Cathy is willing to bring several electric cars to the event to demonstrate how they work. We should check with the Gilmanton School to see if we can use their parking lot that day for some of these demonstrations. Dick will contact Fred Buchholz of the library who was instrumental in siting the ground mounted solar array at the library. There may be a hike on Cogswell Mountain trail that day. We could also have the NH Electric Coop and other energy companies discuss how to connect to the grid for charging EV's and siting charging stations.

Possibly a tour of the upgraded facilities. A battery manufacturing plant in Laconia has offered the committee a tour of its facility to discuss these batteries and how they work. Cyndi suggested speaking with Chase about future costs of next phases of the upgrade projects. Dick suggested keeping in contact with Sarah Thorne about any ideas she might have for future projects. We will check with Clean Energy NH for some of their suggestions. Dick and Sue reported that the Conservation Commission is almost done and has a large section on climate change and energy issues that will intersect with the work of the Energy Committee.

Energy Conference ideas: why we need to work on climate change and energy efficiency. Clean Energy NH presented a number of ideas for future projects. Cyndi suggested a possible program on tax incentives available for the various energy efficiency projects. Aimee: looking at the town master plan to see what we can add to it on climate change and energy efficiencies. Planning board is working on that, and Vincenzo is on that board. Cyndi suggested checking with Vincenzo to determine if he thinks we can add anything to the master plan. We can check on the keynote speaker address from the conference for further ideas.

New business: Aimee will work with Nate on the Town report. Aimee: new roles for the committee. Aimee is willing to run the meetings. The rest of us will work to find new ideas, projects, potential committee members.

Aimee: try to have a calendar of events, meetings to coordinate our meetings. For next month, try to set some goals for 2023. Assure that we get any ideas that might cost to the Budget committee by August, if not before.

Aimee adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick de Seve, secretary.