

Starksboro Energy Committee

Monday January 5, 2026

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Virtual Teams Meeting

1. Attendees
 - a. Guests: Susan Klieber, Luke McCarthy, Amanda Vincent
 - b. Energy Committee Members: Jeff Dunham, Adam Aguirre, Richard Faesy
2. Public Comments
 - a. None
3. Approve Minutes from 12/1/25 meeting
 - a. Jeff moved, Adam seconded, approved
4. Distribution of Efficiency Vermont's Button Up Vermont Campaign Materials
 - a. Pete AK was going to get for Town Center areas
 - b. Adam dropped off at Jerusalem Country Store and will provide some in the J. Schoolhouse
 - i. Materials distributed earlier have been picked up from the Schoolhouse
 - ii. Monthly meetings are planned for Schoolhouse so Adam will drop off materials there
 - iii. January 17 Coffee is planned
 - c. Jeff gave some to Louis DuPont for recycling center at the New Town Garage
5. MERP Grant updates
 - a. Food Shelf
 - i. Weatherization contracting, timing, project management
 1. BuildingEnergy
 - a. Contract has been signed and returned
 - b. When is project scheduled?
 - i. Building Energy said late February after Amanda asked Andrew
 - c. Andrew will be in touch on scheduling when we get closer
 2. Efficiency Vermont rebates
 1. Richard learned only recently that EVT will only provide their rebates for measures that MERP isn't able to cover
 2. This is an incentive to maximize the scope of work to utilize as much of the EVT rebates and MERP grant as possible
 3. Concerns about expanding scope to meet Efficiency Vermont
 4. Develop priority order of projects beyond the existing work already complete and the work Building Energy will complete, for instance:
 - a. Lighting
 - b. Water heating controls
 - c. Heat Pump
 - i. Outdoor compressor roof
 - ii. Remote thermostats

- d. Revisit audit at next meeting to match MERP budget to the project
 - e. RF should call EVT to clarify how to delineate budgets between two projects after reviewing the scope of work and audit at the next meeting
 - 5. Is it possible to maximize incentives for both projects?
 - iii. Barrier placement
 - 1. Amanda will talk to Pete about moving the barrier block back to make more space for the parking lot
 - 2. Snow against the block make the space too small
 - 3. Jeff was going to ask Denny to move it but he was injured
 - iv. Signage
 - 1. Rich will install once the block is moved
 - v. Review budget at next meeting
- b. Jerusalem Schoolhouse
- i. At our last meeting Jolyn had indicated that we may commit the project funds before the end of 2026 if the project won't be done by then
 - 1. Luke thinks this won't be a problem to finish the project in 2026
 - 2. Could potentially use funds for basement reconstruction
 - ii. Silver Maple
 - 1. Project managers
 - 2. Indicated we are on track to finish the project by end of 2026
 - 3. Mentality is to keep to costs low and focus on first costs rather than measures that minimize longer term operating costs
 - 4. Specs include fossil fueled equipment and gas piping and not the requested electric heat pumps
 - iii. Vermont Bond Bank
 - 1. Energy loan at 2% available for energy efficient project
 - 2. Need to determine what would qualify
 - 3. Would need to separate MERP upgrades from other funding sources
 - iv. Megan was going to build a spreadsheet of sources and uses
 - 1. RF reach out to Megan to see status of spreadsheet
 - v. HVAC
 - 1. Intentions were to make it all heat pumps and Rinnai backup for emergency uses
 - 2. We aren't sure the gas boiler specifications ended up in the list
 - 3. Air to water heat pumps could be a good fit
 - 4. Everything is a cost issue now
 - 5. Geothermal could be an option in the current 30% tax credit or cash incentive
 - a. Adam will research whether incentive is available as a check from the IRS for municipalities
 - 6. Luke will follow up with project manager at Silver Maple to ask about:
 - a. Air to water heat pump for radiant floors
 - b. Geothermal as an option for the radiant floors
 - c. Get their specs in Excel format
 - vi. Solar
 - 1. DRB may have discussed no solar on the Fire Station project

- 2. This is an issue since there is a desire to include solar in the project
- vii. J Schoolhouse Committee
 - 1. There is no official J Schoolhouse Committee anymore
 - a. Three of five members have moved out of town
 - 2. Hasn't met in a year
 - 3. Luke, Susan, Amanda, Tom Estey have been meeting with Silver Maple
 - 4. Tom wanted radiant in the Fire Station
 - 5. David Schmidt is the SB contact
 - 6. SB decision ultimately
- viii. We need to consider longer term operating costs
- ix. Silver Maple Budget
 - 1. Can we get the individual line items numbers for the spreadsheet?
 - 2. Luke will ask
- x. Historic Preservation
 - 1. They were not able to get inside building at the site visit
 - 2. SM has been in touch with Historic Preservation guy
- xi. 2% Loan
 - 1. Need to break out all of the insulation and other energy related measures to determine which are covered by MERP and what could be financed with the VT Bond Bank loan
- xii. Funding Sources
 - 1. MERP
 - a. \$140k
 - b. Only specific funds for the project
 - 2. General Fund
 - a. \$173k
 - 3. Friends of the Schoolhouse
 - a. Refrigerator, floor refinishing
 - b. \$50k?
 - c. May be an opportunity to develop 501c3 for future funding
 - 4. Bond Bank
 - a. \$1.1 Million the Town voted for
 - b. Could be reduced by 2% Bond Bank Loan
 - c. Could it be related to "reasonable relationship" to the project
 - d. Amanda will put RF in touch with Ken Linge at BB
 - i. ken@vtbondagency.org
 - 5. Efficiency Vermont incentives
 - a. Once we have the spreadsheet, confirm with them what their contribution will be
 - 6. Starksboro Historical Society Fundraiser
 - a. 501 c3 eligible, so could be a conduit
- xiii. Bond Bank
 - 1. Figure out how much for energy by end of January
 - 2. Richard to build out spreadsheet if Luke an get from SM
 - 3. Jolyon may help move funds

c. [Quotes for MERP](#)

6. ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM) Bill Data Entry Status

- a. Cohen Bove, town intern, input all of the electric data for the town buildings and much of the other delivered fuels (oil and propane) data
 - b. Left town but plans to finish uploading data
- 7. Town Energy Plan
 - a. Review maps from the ACRPC
 - b. Did not have time to review and Jolyn was not present
- 8. Heat Pump Operation Guidance Plans
 - a. Take off agenda
 - b. EAN Action Plan will come from that effort
 - c. Adam will provide update from that effort
- 9. Other business
- 10. Next meeting – 2/2/26