

Starksboro Energy Committee

Monday January 6, 2025

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Virtual Teams Meeting

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[+1 802-377-3679](#) United States, Middlebury (Toll)

Conference ID: 222 356 293#

1. Attendees
 - a. Jeff Dunham, Rich Warren, Richard Faesy, Megan Nedzinski
2. Public Comments
 - a. None
3. Approve Minutes from 10/7/24, 11/4/24, and 12/2/24
 - a. Jeff moved to approve all minutes
 - b. Rich seconded
 - c. Approved
4. Select Board Meeting 12/3/24 Summary
 - a. The SB will consider hiring Amanda and possibly Amy and Nancy to update the town's energy data using the mini-MERP grant. They will get back to us with a decision.
 - i. RF to follow up with Amanda to find out if there has been any SB decision.
 - b. The SB will work with Josh (road commissioner) on the Town Garage heat pump bids. Apparently, they are primarily/only used for cooling, so there is not a sense of urgency to get them in for this winter. They will attempt to secure additional bids for 1:1 units (as a more efficient option than the multizone systems that were proposed) in order to compare the same units. Once these units are replaced, we may want to talk with Josh about operating them for heating in the winter.
 - i. RF ask Amanda if this has happened.
 - c. If Jeff would like to be the primary contact for the solar trackers, it's all yours.
 - i. Jeff will call AllEarth to let them know he is the primary contact and will ask to see what we should expect for increased production with the three broken trackers now back in commission.
5. ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager Town data entry
 - a. Waiting for the SB decision on Amanda and then Megan can set up a training.
6. MERP Grant next steps
 - a. \$167,800 total awarded, including \$4,000 from the pre-grant, with the balance available for the Jerusalem Schoolhouse and Food Shelf
 - b. Food Shelf
 - i. Heat pumps are apparently an issue, per Pete Antos-Ketchum

- ii. Three heads multizone
- iii. Heating controls may not be working since when set at 50, they keep space at 70 degrees in the Food Shelf area
- iv. Other two zone don't appear to be working, but that may be because they operate on separate hand held controllers that may not be working
- v. The heat pump probably needs to be cleaned and inspected to see if it still operable or needs to be replaced
- c. Efficiency Vermont
 - i. May be able to provide incentives in addition to MERP funds
 - ii. Richard talked to Emily Eckert at EVT about what they might offer
 - iii. Need to use "Efficiency Excellence Contractor" to access EVT funds
 - iv. Once we get bids, circle back to talk to Emily
 - v. Ask ACRPC whether there is flexibility to deviate from the audit reports and whether we could shift funds between buildings from the MERP grant
- d. MERP Grant Scope from the agreement with the State:

ATTACHMENT A: SCOPE OF WORK

Starksboro

The Starksboro Food Shelf upgrades include:

1. Envelope:
 - a. Insulate and air seal attic.
 - b. Replace and air seal doors.
2. ADA: Make ADA improvements which meet a budget of 20% of project construction costs
3. Other: Appliance replacement with efficient models

The Jerusalem Schoolhouse upgrades include:

1. HVAC:
 - a. Install heat pump system.
 - b. Mechanical ventilation.
2. Envelope:
 - a. Insulate foundation.
 - b. Insulate and air seal walls.
 - c. Weatherstripping doors.
 - d. Replace windows
3. ADA: Make ADA improvements which meet a budget of 20% of project construction costs
4. Other:
 - a. Appliance replacement with efficient models.
 - b. Electric service upgrade to support heat pumps.

- e. Megan predicts that costs are going to be significantly more than MERP grant provided for the scope of work recommended based on current other projects
- f. May be closer to \$500k
- g. Look at alternative options
 - i. Storms rather than replacing windows

- ii. Look at building science solutions
 - iii. Don't do measures that will need to redone
 - h. EVT may be able help with additional incentives, which might help, but won't make up the difference
 - i. Lining up a project manager and contractors
 - i. Doug Viemens architect may be an option
 - 1. Is working towards retirement
 - 2. Not sure of his availability
 - 3. J Schoolhouse Committee should look at the work he has already done in documents along with Megan and Jeff as advisors
 - j. Jerusalem Schoolhouse
 - i. Prioritize measures that address the building envelope before installing heat pumps
 - ii. Don't heat the building until there is insulation and it's air-sealed
 - iii. Insulate, air seal and think about mechanical ventilation (energy recovery ventilator) so building can be used
 - iv. Storm windows and caulking may be a lower cost alternative to new windows
 - k. Next steps
 - i. SEC recommends two separate meetings
 - 1. Set up meeting with Amanda, Luke and J School House Committee
 - a. Meet with J School House Committee first to review Doug's plans and make a decision about his role
 - b. Start with Luke, include Jeff and Megan's input
 - c. Time is of the essence
 - d. Figure out what amount is left for the Food Shelf
 - e. RF reach back to Amanda to get things started
 - 2. Food shelf with Amanda, Pete A-K, Ann Bove, Lisa Daudon
 - a. Separate meeting to discuss next steps
 - b. RF ask Pete about which freezers and refrigerator needs to be replaced
 - c. Test existing refrigerators and freezers for electrical usage
 - i. Rich and Megan have kilowatt meters
 - 1. Megan and Rich will coordinate meters
 - 2. Rich will check the electrical use of each appliance
 - d. RF ask Pete and the town to service the heat pumps
 - i. Clean and check the refrigerant charge
 - ii. This should be a regular town expense and not come out of the MERP grant
7. EV charger rate review
 - a. Jeff will try to figure out
 - b. Will get access to ChargePoint
 - c. Review at next meeting
8. Town Solar Trackers status

- a. Jeff will work with AllEarth as contact
 - b. Will try to figure out what we should expect for next year
 - c. Three units have been out of commission for the better of last year
9. Pete's "Energy Navigator" Role
- a. This seems to be waiting in the wings at this point
 - b. Pete isn't interested in promoting electrification and taking the Addison County Navigator training that includes a focus on transitioning from fossil fuels to heat pumps
 - c. Promotion and Outreach – not discussed
 - i. Copying materials
 - ii. Mailing(s) to promote the service
 - d. Promotion is on hold, but Pete remains available to help as part of his New Communities role
10. Other Town Buildings – No discussion
- a. Town Office
 - b. Library
11. Robinson School updates on heat pump water heater efforts
- a. Waiting for Mt. Abe staff to reach back out
12. Other business
13. Next meeting – 2/3/25