

Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Sustainable Hanover - Energy Initiative
Tuesday, Nov 8, 2022

Attending: Yolanda Baumgartner, Barb Callaway, Judi Colla, Andrew Hatch, Rob Houseman, Robin Kaiser, Pete Kulbacki, Dennis Robison, Marjorie Rolgalski, Sarah Kelly (Dartmouth Professor), Ella Briman (Dartmouth Student), Katherine Edwards (Dartmouth student), Orian Welling (CRREL).

Next Meeting

Our December meeting will be a joint meeting with Sustainable Hanover, both in person and on Zoom, Wed, Dec 21st at 8:30 AM.

Announcements

The Climate Action Group at the Norwich Congregational Church will hold a panel on climate-aware investment on Nov 20th.

Vital Communities is sponsoring an Affordable Energy Resources Fair on Nov 19th.

CRREL

Marjorie contacted Senator Shaheen's office and learned from Elizabeth McKenna that there will be money in the Inflation Reduction Act to help Federal buildings become more energy efficient and adopt renewable energy. She then contacted Orian Welling who works at CRREL, sent him information about these programs, and invited him to today's SH meeting.

Orian believes there would be interest at CRREL in such programs, especially since CRREL is currently planning an energy research facility. He believes that working with the town is a good way to get interest and funding for that kind of work at CRREL. We agreed to arrange a meeting between some members of the Energy Committee, Orian, and a representative from Senator Shaheen's office, hopefully Elizabeth McKenna.

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Andrew recently attended a meeting where Elizabeth McKenna talked about the IRA, using a slide deck to which Andrew now has access. He emphasized that the details of this bill are yet to be determined. Tax credits will be available in 2023 but rebates for low and moderate income households might not be forthcoming until 2024.

Andrew also emphasized that states need to be preparing for any federal money that becomes available or be left out.

The Upper Valley Business Alliance is holding an Energy Forum on Mon, Nov 28th at Lebanon City Hall. The subject will be "What Businesses Can Do to Mitigate Their Increasing Energy Bills?" The panel includes Sam Evans Brown of Clean Energy New Hampshire; Don Kreis, Consumer Advocate for Energy in NH; and Andrew.

Energy Justice Clinic at Dartmouth

Students continue to work on the report of their activities to date and will share soon with SH-E. They have also been working with Cover Home Repair to weatherize homes and plan to work with Cover this spring on a mural. They will be posting an op-ed in "The Dartmouth" about high energy prices and the burden it places on graduate students. It was suggested that SH-E and students collaborate in finding resources to address this problem.

Communications

Judi asked Sarah if she might know of a student who would be interested in an internship to help with the SH website. Familiarity with SquareSpace would be a plus. Sarah offered to follow up with Rosie Kerr in the Sustainability Office at Dartmouth.

Current plans are to have the Fall Newsletter focus on the Inflation Reduction Act with three separate articles on opportunities for 1) renewable energy projects, 2) home efficiency projects, and electric vehicles. Judi will draft content for home efficiency projects and share with Andrew and Barb for feedback. The deadline for articles is Nov 25th so that the newsletter can go out on Dec 1. We can postpone the publication date should it make sense.

Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH)

Yolanda and Judi will work on a logo for Hanover Community Power which is needed soon. CPCNH towns will determine what plans and rates to offer after the utilities release their new rates in January. Pete will write a short update about the CPCNH rollout for our next newsletter.

Local Solar

The entire Grasse Road solar installation is producing. Pete does not have cost savings and power generated data at this time but will eventually. Dennis commended the Town on meeting nearly 100% of its electric consumption with renewable solar. Last week Pete and Yolanda hosted the Hanover High School Environmental Club on a tour of the Grasse Road solar installation.

Pete reported that a solar tracker will be erected at the Etna Library this spring.

Window Dressers

The Window Dressers program in Hanover and Norwich was asked to submit a 90 second video about the program for a competition with other projects around the state. Our program won a strong 2nd place after NPR. Congratulations to the Window Dressers Team!

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Callaway