Sustainable Hanover Energy Committee
Minutes of Meeting
April 10, 2018, 1 – 2:30 pm

Present: Yolanda B, Stowe B, Barb Calloway (Guest), Judi C, Julia G, Mike H, Rob H, Pete K, David M, Majorie R, April S, Tad Montgomery (Guest)
Absent: Honor P, Jackie R, Ally S, Ian M

Minutes of Last Meeting on March 6th. Informally accepted. Yolanda proposed a schedule for rotating minute taking. The schedule will be emailed to committee members.

Announcements (Yolanda):
- Hanover Town Meeting (daytime and evening voting) is on Tuesday, May 8th.
- Vital Communities’ Energy Round Table is also on May 8th, from 5 to 8 pm at the Montshire (http://vitalcommunities.org/energy/roundtable/).
- The Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup (UVAW) Spring Forum will take place on Tuesday, May 15, from 5-8 pm, at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (Auditorium E). Topic will be Climate Change’s Impact on the Upper Valley’s Farms and Forests.

Air Table (Yolanda). Yolanda thought air table was getting a tad unwieldy. David offered to meet with a few others to address issue.

Public Forum (All). Consensus that public forum was a big success -- well-conceived and implemented program that engaged over 100 attendees to the very end. Yolanda was especially pleased with the posters and the presence of neighborhood groups, both of which encouraged folks to visit in advance of the formal meeting. There were some minor audiovisual issues, and it was difficult to hear in back. Agreed that we should hold these public meetings annually but change venue, possibly to Hanover High School auditorium, to accommodate more folks more comfortably. Also, we should expand live streaming to accommodate those who can’t attend; broaden poster participation, especially from schools; and ask those providing posters to send representatives with whom public can interact. Important to establish date for next year ASAP as HHS auditorium gets booked early.

Neighborhood Action Group (Barbara). Barbara reported that 83 folks signed in at the public forum -- 54 were from Hanover, the remainder from surrounding communities. The active Neighborhood Groups are planning a couple of meetings this month to which they will invite others from not yet active neighborhoods. Purpose of these meetings is to share with attendees what’s going on and get ideas as to what they are interested in. Barbara needs copies of both vision statement and handout on solar array article for these upcoming meetings. Also, feedback from residents is that they are having difficulty understanding the handout re: article on town warrant that would facilitate the expansion of solar arrays – seems very technical to them.

Article on Hanover Town Warrant to Facilitate Solar (Rob). Article has been posted online. Explanations available through CATV, Valley News, Hanover Town Hall, Howe Library, and schools. This article is critical as many of Dartmouth’s proposed solar projects are dependant upon it. Set up a team to establish talking points and develop overall strategy for reaching voters. Judi volunteered to be on team; Mike, to take an electioneering shift during daytime voting; Barb, to share importance with neighborhood groups; and Yolanda, to ask Ally/Jenna/Rosi how to best reach Dartmouth students/faculty/staff.
**Commercial Energy Efficiency (David).** Taking from a master list that Rob secured, David has created a spreadsheet of Hanover businesses (complete list not available through the Chamber as many are not members). He and Chase Pennoyer, a junior auditor from Resilient Buildings Group will be approaching businesses on Main Street one by one starting April 16th. Goals for these first visits are to confirm contact information, square footage, lease type, etc. and quickly scan lighting. If owners are willing, David and Chase will also be prepared to do a short on-the-spot audit. Liberty Utilities is supporting costs for Chase to help us at first one and then possibly two days per week – Monday and Thursday. When a second investment grade audit is requested, David will confer with Bob Reals at Liberty as to who he’d recommend for a senior level auditor. David asked if Town could provide free parking tag for Chase. Yes, according to Pete and Rob.

There was discussion about the efficiency of approaching building owners as they might know tenants’ consumption of energy. Turns out, depends on type of lease – would know under gross but not net lease since tenant is billed directly by utility. More discussion about whether or not to provide information about funding opportunities through USDA grants. David thought applying would be a heavy lift for small businesses but we could provide information on town website for larger businesses. Julia suggested we might want to contract with Vital Communities to put together an energy efficiency/renewable energy resource portal for small business owners. Judi mentioned an alternative -- creating a Facebook group for small businesses. Such a group would need an administrator but no one to organize the information – a bit chaotic but there is a search function. David will explore.

**Planning with 3Degrees/Dan Kalafatas (Julia).** Pete, Rob, Julia, and April are having weekly zoom calls (generally on Thursdays at 2 pm) with Courtney Nelson, our project manager from 3Degrees, who is helping us 1) prioritize action steps for our plan; 2) determine whether or not municipal aggregation makes sense for us (not as straightforward as establishing a buying coop); 3) create a scorecard; and 4) establish right mix of local and offsite electric generation. They know we want to focus initially on building electric capacity locally and will present their analysis by end of May.

**1st Year Workplan (Yolanda).** Reviewed and agreed we are on target and doing well!

**Community Solar (April).** Tuck students, looking into the feasibility of solar arrays for various sites throughout Hanover, will determine their top two recommendations by early to mid May. April will ask if they can present at our next Energy Committee meeting on Tues, May 15th.

**Other (Julia).** Julia mentioned the petition for SB2, usually brought forth by folks wanting to put caps on budget, that needs 3/5 vote to be approved. Selectboard has not endorsed. Public meeting re: SB2 next Monday night. Mike offered to write LTE. Also, Julia received memo from Kim Quirk inquiring about the possibility of seeking local investors for the community solar projects. Ian did not think idea was practical. Julia will check with 3Degrees. Issue has come up at Dartmouth, as alums have expressed interest in investing in such projects.

**Other (April).** In honor of Earthweek, Cofounder of Revision Energy will be speaking at Tuck on Wed, April 18th at noon. Also, meeting in Claremont this Thursday at 1:30 pm with Suneast, firm that has determined sites for large solar arrays in Massachusetts.

**Next Meeting.** Tues, May 15th at 1 pm (Note: Changed from May 8th due to Hanover town meeting.)

Respectfully Submitted,
Judi Colla