Minutes SHC Energy Subcommittee 2/12/2019

Recorder: Mike Hillinger

Present: David McManus, Judi Colla, Robert Houseman, Peter Kulbacki, Julia Griffin, Barb Callaway, Heidi Trimarco, April Salas, Mike Hillinger, Laura Hutchinson

Efficiency
David noted that Andrew Hatch has been hired by Resilient Technologies to focus on retrofitting Upper Valley businesses using RGGI funds available through Liberty Utilities. As part of outreach, David is interviewing with John Lipman (Business Editor for Valley News).

Communications
Judi asked for feedback on the working communications document. There was some discussion about what kind of information is best suited for inclusion. Mike suggested that information such as status reports might not fit well into the document and there were other suggestions about suitable inclusions.

Yolanda, Marjorie, Barb, Stowe, David, and Judi have met twice and are making good progress in planning the public forum on April 24th. There was discussion about technical requirements and having CATV record the session.

Metrics
Mike summarized the metrics report he added to the communications document. He and Honor have met with Rob, Peter, and Betsy to understand how information is collected. Honor, with feedback from April, has drafted a request to the PUC about data needs for Hanover and other R100 communities. She will be circulating for comment and sign off.

There was discussion of the anecdotal/case study approach and the sample draft Mike wrote. As a first step we may ask members of the Energy Subcommittee to add their own stories. This will be followed by outreach to the larger community. One potential pool would be people who have already installed PV.
Barb recommended that when we reach out to the community we employ marketing techniques to maximize our impact. Heidi emphasized that choice of terms and wording will be important for certain population segments.

April mentioned that a UNH Sustainability Fellow will be working on some projects this summer, including reviewing data compatibility for future use in a dashboard-like application.

Outreach
Julia described the work with 3 Degrees on green power purchasing for residents and small businesses. The initial contract will likely be for 12 months with longer periods to follow after the first year. The program is unlikely to cover customers using net metering. If the initial trial is successful, it can be extended to other, even non-contiguous, towns. Selecting a provider may occur by late May.

Warrant Article – Exempting Solar from Assessed value
Heidi is drafting an article exempting certain efficiency and renewable energy improvements from assessed value for property tax purposes. Julia, Peter, and Rob will be discussing this with Dave McMullen. The goal is to get endorsement from the Energy Subcommittee in March and to present to the select board on March 18 for review and approval by April 1. The focus will be on solar.

Neighborhood Groups
Barb reported on the neighborhood group meeting of Sunday 2/10. About 20 people attended. Julia, Yolanda, and Judi shared Town and Energy Subcommittee initiatives and responded to questions. One attendee, Peter Gish, asked about an educational initiative focused on climate change and suggested that he might be able to contribute to that effort. Heidi asked if future meeting might explore options for hosting community solar arrays.

Other
Laura Hutchinson, Dartmouth ’19, reintroduced herself and gave some background on her work with the Rocky Mountain Institute and the Sustainability Office at Dartmouth.

Next Meeting: Tues, Mar 12 (Stowe will record)