Minutes
Sustainable Hanover - Energy
October 1, 2019

Present: Yolanda Baumgartner, Stowe Beam, Barb Callaway, Judi Colla, Julia Griffin, Mike Hillinger, Josh Hotvet, Robin Kaiser, Peter Kulbachi, Dave McManus, Dennis Robison, Marjorie Rolgalski, Rob Taylor. Guests: Bill Brown, Andrew Hatch.

Introductions. Bill introduced himself and shared his interest in developing a pilot project of 100 homes having subsecond metering to get a picture of how usage varies over time – something he thinks would be valuable to both the consumer and utility.

Minutes. Judi encouraged all to update their respective sections of the internal communications document.

Efficiency. Andrew reported that the Town has replaced 1,403 fluorescent bulbs with LED bulbs in Town Hall, the Public Works Department, the Water Department, the Water Reclamation Department, and the Black Community Center. Total cost was $9,459; incentives paid $4,203; cost to the town was $5,000. This change reduces the cost of electricity for this lighting from $23,000 to $9,000 per year. Therefore, the town will have a return on its investment in ~6 months. In addition, workers report that the quality of light is much better. Lighting needs to be changed in other municipal buildings, such as the Howe Library, but these changes will require more time and labor. According to Pete, these changes will be accomplished as time permits, as the two employees who do this work have many other responsibilities as well.

Solarize 2019. Marjorie reported on the Solarize 2019 campaign that ended on September 8th. At least 98 households have requested one or more site visits. Nine have signed contracts for installation. There will be another follow up with the contractors in November. While more contracts may be signed, installations will likely not happen until next year. Residents interested in getting in the queue for next year may sign up on the Sustainable Hanover website. It will be important to get an accurate count of residential, commercial, and municipal solar installations on a regular schedule, perhaps every quarter. This information will be helpful both for the committee and for the next Solarize campaign.

Neighborhood Action Group (NAG). Barb reports that NAG has encouraged volunteers to write letters about overriding the governor’s vetoes on several energy bills. They are partnering with the White Church on an environmental program in November, awaiting a final date. NAG also plans to schedule an event at the new bookstore when it opens.

Priorities and Capacities for 2019 - 2020. Judi led a discussion on priorities and capacities based on previous discussion during the August Energy meeting. Key points are as follows:

• Master Planning. Town staff and Sustainable Hanover are working on a master plan.
- **Community Aggregation** will be a top priority for Town staff in collaboration with others. Julia encouraged folks to listen to Henry Herndon’s interview on NHPR broadcast (~8:30 AM on October 1st) and will send Henry’s online plan for community aggregation. According to Julia, the first step is to develop a plan based on NH statute.

- **Power and Purchase Agreements for Large Users** will also be a top priority for Town staff in collaboration with others.

- **Solarize 2020** will launch this spring. Stowe, in collaboration with others, will lead.

- **Commercial Efficiency.** David and Andrew will continue their good work in this area.

- **Community Solar** will likely move to the back burner because legislation supporting the increase of net metering from 1 to 5 mW’s failed. Will shift some attention to large businesses, encouraging them to install solar. Josh, in collaboration with others, will lead.

- **Weatherize 2020** will be launching in January in collaboration with Vital Communities (VC). This program is new to Hanover but has already been vetted in other communities. Barb and Robin, in collaboration with others, volunteered to co-lead. We hope this will be an annual program. (Marjorie will invite Hanover resident Judy Payne to be part of the Weatherization working group. According to Judy, the United Church of Christ Church in Norwich (with members from both Norwich and Hanover) is interested in sponsoring home weatherization for a low or middle income resident. This might serve as a model for other churches in Hanover. Also, Mike agreed to be in charge of getting personal stories from people who have weatherized and making them available through the newsletter and otherwise.)

- **Schools.** Yolanda and Linda Gray, Energy Committee Chair from Norwich, will be on the community advisory board for implementing Hanover High School’s (HHS) Climate Action Plan. In addition, Andrew and David are working with the SAU to complete total building envelope audits and heating system reviews at HHS and the Ray School, creating a blueprint for future action. Liberty will spend up to $5,000 for these audits and reviews; there will be no cost to the SAU. Andrew has been in touch with Jeannie Kornfeld, environmental studies teacher at HHS, in order to engage students in this learning opportunity. The Ray School has already done some energy and efficiency work.

- **Metrics.** Robin, Honor, Mike, and Fletcher will continue their good work on metrics. April will be implementing a grant to work with Don Kreis, the PUC consumer advocate, to develop an energy dashboard, using Hanover as the pilot.

- **Neighborhood Action Groups (NAG).** Barb will continue her able leadership of the NAG’s.

- **Legislative Advocacy.** The Town will continue to work with Clean Energy NH on legislative matters. In addition, NAG will continue to organize residents willing to write LTE’s and legislators on behalf of relevant legislation.

- **Transportation.** The State is encouraging and providing financial support for more charging stations. The Town is planning more charging stations as well as covered parking for bicycles.

- **Communications.**
  - **Messaging and branding.** Julia, Yolanda, Judi, and Stowe plan to meet a third time with Kevin Keller, professor from Tuck, to finalize graphics and get started on webpage.
Webpage. Will update after we finalize messaging and branding.

Sustainable Hanover Newsletter. Dennis will edit and put together but needs others to provide content. Julia suggested that people generate content for their respective work areas. Stowe noted the need for a regular working group on content and communications. One task would be to create a content calendar. Barbara thought we should find a person dedicated to this working group. Possible members include Rob, Dennis, Robin, Stowe, April, Judi, and Yolanda.

Annual Forum. We agreed on Wed April 29th or Thurs April 30th as possible dates for our annual forum and the importance of having an inspirational speaker. Yolanda is going to see if Marcelo Gleiser, physics professor at Dartmouth and involved with environmentalism, might be willing to speak. (His graduate students and others describe him as inspirational.) A working group will be formed to plan the forum. Did not specify members. Last year’s members included Judi, Yolanda, Marjorie, David, Stowe, Barbara, April, and Robin.

Judi asked everyone to think about people with skills we need who might be interested in joining the Energy Subcommittee.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Callaway