

Bennington Town Energy Committee Minutes

November 12, 2020

Next Meeting, Tuesday, December 15, 7 - 8:30 pm over Zoom

Present: Michael Kuser, Wendy Sharkey, David Durfee, Deanna Oakes, Bruce Lierman, Jeannie Jenkins, Jim Hand, Allison Strohl, Madison Kremer, and Stephanie Lane.

Review minutes from October meeting: minutes approved with no corrections.

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Lane, Executive Director of Shires Housing gave a wide-ranging virtual tour of the organization's work on energy efficiency, low to net zero emissions construction, biomass plants, etc.

Window Dressers Update: Bruce Lierman postponed his update on Window Dressers events to the December meeting.

Op-Eds Campaign: Alison Strohl reported the launch of the op-eds campaign with an article in the Banner November 10. She does not feel it fair to be tasked with reminding people to write articles, but will happily continue to coordinate publishing.

Review recommendations to Select Board for 2021: On building codes, Wendy said builders are having a hard enough time dealing with regular work, and that stretch codes might push people over the edge. Steve Spatz of Efficiency Vt recommended having a pre-drywall inspection as well as a completed job inspection. Focus on getting people on board with the existing very strong codes. Jim Hand said get whoever applies for the permit to sign an acknowledgement that they understand the code and the process. Bruce recommended getting builders involved in EE as early as possible in their planning. Madison said build a network of builders and real estate agents, and suggested asking permit applicants if Efficiency Vt can reach out to them with money-saving ideas. Jim Hand said get zoning official to open that loop of communication

Action Items for Next Time:

- Michael will update draft recommendations
- Bruce follow up with Window Dressers

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.