

Nelson Town Buildings Committee

June 3, 2019

Attendees

- Dave Upton
- Dave Birchenough
- Russ Thomas
- Lisa Sieverts
- Absent
 - Sandy Mackenzie
 - Earl Creasey
- Guests
 - Henry Herndon
 - Andy Wilson

Action Items

- Dave U
 - Verify Town Hall availability for potential event dates
 - all times 7 PM
 - Thursday August 8
 - Thursday September 12
 - Thursday September 19
 - Thursday November 7
 - Thursday November 14
 - Discuss Andy Willson appointment to Nelson Town Buildings Committee with Selectboard
 - Start the process of creating an RFP for the solar project
- Dave B
 - Confirm August 8 evening with Connor Hill

Agenda

- Planning community information sessions
- Financing
- Town Hall

MINUTES

- Motion to approve the minutes of May 13, by Russ second by Dave, all in favor

- Checking in with Andy Wilson
 - Sandy asked him to join the Communications Committee
 - We do a bit of history for Andy
 - Selectboard goals to reduce non-renewable energy by 90% by 2025
 - We did energy study of heating of all our buildings
 - Figured out the amount of energy needed
 - Modeled the solar needed

- Community Information Sessions
 - Event 1: Global Perspective and Why we care
 - Greta Thunberg TED
 - Connor Hill, Keene HS senior
 - Thursday August 8
 - Dave B will confirm this date with Connor Hill
 - Event 2: The NH Perspective and How other towns are dealing with this
 - Propose 9/12 or 9/19 in the Town Hall at 7 PM
 - Dave U will check the dates with Edie
 - Henry Herndon
 - Yes, we have a state-wide perspective
 - Concord has a 100% renewable energy goal
 - We're working with Democrats and Republicans
 - Discussion of his presentation at our second event
 - It won't be wonky
 - Pictures and trends
 - We talk about costs and payback and why this is a good investment
 - Importance of energy independence
 - As electric costs continue to rise
 - Event 3: Our project details
 - 11/7 or 11/14
 - Dave U will check the dates with Edie
 - Dana Nute and Greg Blake

- Bob Haydn?
 - Works for Standard Power
 - Knows a lot about net metering and solar development
 - Lives in Milford
 - A good guy but Probably not a good fit
 - Pat Martin, too?
 - Henry thinks she would be a better fit for event 1 or 3
- Financing
 - Henry has a list of incentives which he will send us
 - PUC
 - US Dept of Ag
 - Northern Borders Regional Commission
 - Power Purchase Agreement
 - How do we find a company interested in doing this?
 - Lisa received grant information from Cheshire County
 - **New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission**
 - Offers renewable energy rebates and grants through a competitive process for renewable energy projects for commercial and industrial entities. (Cheshire County won a grant from this program about 1.5 years ago to replace a boiler at Maplewood).
 - puc.nh.gov/SustainableEnergy/RenewableEnergyRebates.html
 - **Public Service of New Hampshire Energy Rewards Program**
 - Competitive basis electrical energy efficiency projects for industrial and commercial customers with 350kW demand or more (603) 634–3216 or gary.lacasse@nu.com
 - www.psnh.com/SaveEnergyMoney/Large-Power/Energy-Rewards-Program.aspx
 - **TD Charitable Foundation**
 - Private foundation with focus areas in community development, economic development, education, environment, energy, food banks, housing, human services, youth services
 - www.tdbank.com/community/grants.html or (207) 756–6947 or CharitableGiving@TD.com
 - **EPA New England Healthy Communities Grant Program**
 - Focus: Reduce environmental risks, protect and improve human health and improve the quality of life with projects that benefit communities at risk, areas needing community resilience, build

capacity to solve health and environmental problems

- Average award of about \$25,000
- Competitive program, applications typically due in spring
- www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/hcgp.html

USDA Rural Energy for America

- Funds may be used for renewable energy systems including biomass, geothermal, hydropower, hydrogen, wind and solar generation. Funds may also be used for energy efficiency improvements including efficiency heating, insulation, lighting, refrigeration units, doors and windows, electric, solar or gravity pumps, and switching from diesel to electric irrigation.
- Award amounts up to \$500,000; provides grant funding for 25% of the total project cost up to \$20,000 and guaranteed loan financing for 75% of the total project cost up to \$25 million
- Target: agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements.
- www.rd.usda.gov/progr...ciency

Clean Energy States Alliance, NH Public Utilities

Commissioner Renewable Energy Grants

- Provides funding and resources for Renewable energy projects in NH
- Award amounts up to \$100,000
- www.cesa.org

Eversource

- eversource.versaic.com/login
- Funding for activities that will make a positive difference for local residents. Priority is given to programs that focus on the health and well-being of youth and the promotion and advancement of clean energy and related technologies. Limit of 1 application per year.
- Typically due in Fall
- (800) 286-2000

Eversource Charitable Giving

- Eversource awards grants to qualified non-profits in our service area, with a particular focus on the health and well-being of youth and the advancement and promotion of clean energy and related technologies

- Typically due in Fall
- www.eversource.com/Content/nh/about/community/charitable-contributions-volunteerism

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES WITH POTENTIAL LEADS FOR FUNDING

Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

www.energy.gov/eere/funding/eere-funding-opportunities

U.S. Department of Energy

www.energy.gov/energy-economy/funding-financing

NH Office of Energy and Planning

www.nh.gov/oep/jobs-grants/grants/index.htm

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- Henry will give us a contact at Annie Kuster's office
- We need to do an RFP for the solar project, and we may get power purchase agreements as a response to the bid
- Local Energy Solutions Conference at the Grappone Center November 15
 - Henry wants us to go
 - Henry will send information to Dave B
- How to get more information?
 - Could we meet with a Concord attorney who does power purchase agreements?
 - Henry knows people and will give us some contacts
 - Andy suggests Vermont Law School, as they are the top environmental law school. Could we work with a smart student. They are helping with low income solar. Christa Shute might have some law students for us.
- Town Hall Floor
 - The contract has been signed with Chris Salmon Flooring to replace the Town Hall floor and level the floor in the two storage closets.

- The Monadnock Folklore Society would like to consider widening the stage and/or build a storage cabinet at the same time that the floor replacement is taking place.
- There is currently blue tape on the floor indicated options for widening the stage. Please take a look and let Lisa know what you think.
- The Buildings Committee is skeptical that both projects can be done efficiently without increasing the amount of time that the Hall is unavailable (planned for October 1 - 18, 2019).
- Lisa to bring more detailed information for Buildings Committee review.
- We note that the lilacs look great — 5 years after the Town Hall renovation project

Motion to adjourn at 7:40PM by Russ, second by Dave U, all in favor

Next Meeting

- Monday July 1 6 PM Town Offices