

NELSON TOWN BUILDINGS COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

Attendees

- Dave Upton
- Lisa Sieverts
- Sandy Mackenzie
- Dave Birchenough
- Patsy Beffa-Negrini
- Kim Rich
- Earl Creasey

Agenda

- Welcome New Members - Introductions
- Reorganize Committee Leadership
- Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting of the NTBC
- Review Committee Mission
- Set Project Agenda for 2021
- Set Date for Next Meeting

Action Items

- Sandy
 - Ask the Library Trustees if they have any questions or upcoming projects for the TBC
- Dave U
 - Continue research into R32 vs. A410 refrigerant for ASHPs
- Lisa
 - Find Dana Nute study and compile numbers about current building energy use

MINUTES

Welcome New Members - Introductions

Reorganize Committee Leadership

- Dave B makes a motion to have Lisa Sieverts be the Committee Chair for this term, Sandy seconds. All in favor.
- Secretary
 - Lisa will keep this role, too, at least for the first couple of meetings.
 - Minutes can be fairly simply, record of motions and actions taken.

Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting of the NTBC, November 9, 2020

- Sandy moves to accept the minutes, second by Dave U, all in favor

Review Committee Mission

- Review Committee Mission: The Nelson Town Buildings Committee serves as an advisory committee to the Nelson Selectboard, focused on the Nelson Town Buildings which include:
 - Town Offices (Old Brick School House)
 - Town Hall
 - Library (responsibility shared with the Library Trustees)
 - Safety Building
 - Fire Stations in Nelson and Munsonville (responsibility shared with the Fire Chief)
- In that role, the Buildings Committee evaluates building issues, recommends projects, reviews bids when appropriate, and makes recommendations to the Selectboard. In addition, the Buildings Committee provides information to the town's residents regarding large and/or complex projects. This information-sharing can take the form of public meetings, web pages, mailings, and other appropriate formats.
- We agree to adhere to this mission.

Set Project Agenda for 2021

- Is there research the Selectboard would like us to do? Air purification, or other building systems?
- Reducing fossil fuel use in town buildings, this year, specifically by researching Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) and non-fossil-fuel power sourcing for them.
 - Determine the availability of ASHP's that use low GWP refrigerants
 - Select the town buildings in which to install ASHP's in 2022.
 - Seek RFP's from HVAC contractors for the ASHP's for the selected buildings. The RFP already exists. It was sent to HVAC contractors last year.
 - Determine the best source of the electrical energy needed to power the ASHP's.
 - Options include Eversource, Clean Energy Community Power Aggregation, and/or New Solar Array
 - If appropriate, Draft a Warrant Article for the 2022 Town Meeting.
 - Note that if there is to be a warrant article for the next Town Meeting, assuming it is held in March, then warrant preparation must be complete in December
- Town Hall
 - Storage Cabinets

- The Monadnock Folklore Society is proposing to build storage cabinets on either side of the stage, to relieve the storage issues in the Town Hall closet.
- Floor Maintenance

Set Date for Next Meeting

- Monday October 18 6 PM and every two weeks thereafter

Some questions from this committee

- What do the current solar panels power?
 - They power, via Eversource, all of the “plug loads,” including lights, in all of the Town Buildings
- Could we install ASHPs without adding to the Town Solar Array and still meet the goal of reducing fossil fuel use by the Town?
 - Probably
- What is Community Power?
 - Patsy is working on a project for community power aggregation
 - Next Wednesday at 1 PM Community Power presentation to the Selectboard, this may lead to an Energy Committee for Nelson, this is a public meeting so several of us plan to attend to learn more.
- What are the costs for heating and cooling today
 - Look at the Dana Nute study, Lisa will find and share

Discussion of what we need to do to prepare for the next meeting on October 18

- Have we solved the refrigerant issue, re carbon cost of different ASHP refrigerants?
 - No, we do not yet have enough information, including knowing whether it is possible to buy municipal scale R32 Air Source Heat Pumps in NH today
 - Dakin is sending mixed messages about R32 replacing A410A.
 - Dave Upton will continue to follow up with Dakin and others and will share his findings

Decisions we hope to make at the October 18 meeting

- Recommendation re R32 vs. A410 refrigerant
- Do we wait another year before purchasing ASHPs
- How to power new ASHPs
- Recommendation re Town Hall storage cabinets and floor maintenance

A reminder about “Right to Know” rules

- We can share information with each other by email between meetings, but we cannot comment on that information or make any decisions by email

Next Meeting

- Monday October 18 at 6 PM in the Town Hall

Dave U makes a motion to adjourn at 7:22 PM, Patsy seconds, all in favor

Lisa Sieverts
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