

# Nelson Town Buildings Committee

October 18, 2021

## Attendees

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

## Agenda

- Approve the Minutes
- Decisions we hope to make at this meeting
  - Recommendation re R32 vs. R410A refrigerant, and information re the possible “state code” against R32
  - Do we wait another year before purchasing ASHPs
  - How to power new ASHPs
- Quick recap of Lisa’s meeting with Selectboard re their letter
- Review Action Items
  - Library
- Confirm next meeting on 11/1/21

## SUMMARY

- The Committee is moving forward with drafting an RFP for the purchase of ASHPs for the Library and Town Offices. We expect to approve our draft on 11/1 and would like to present it to the Selectboard on 11/3.
- There are a number of small fixes needed at the Library, should this Committee get involved? See below for details

## Action Items

- Lisa
  - Coordinate revision of Draft RFP with Cost/Benefit

# MINUTES

- Chair Lisa Sieverts calls the meeting to order at 6 PM
- Approve the Minutes of the September 27, 2021, as sent by email on September 28, with the corrections that Maury Collins did not attend and that R410A refrigerant was referred to as A410.
  - Sandy moves to accept the minutes as corrected, second by Patsy, all in favor
- Air-Source Heat Pumps
  - R32 research from Dave
    - Is it possible to purchase ASHPs with R32 low GWP refrigerant in NH?
      - Dave cannot find anyone, Mitsubishi, Dakin, LG, who will **commit** to delivering ASHP with R32 at this time in NH. They said they are installing it in CA but not NH
      - • DaveU has asked DES about R32, and they say there are no codes against R32, moreover they only regulate the **decommissioning** of devices
      - Lisa makes a point in favor of trying to purchase R32 ASHPs, especially in light of this recent ruling by the EPA.
        - [U.S. Will Dramatically Cut Climate-Damaging Greenhouse Gases with New Program Aimed at Chemicals Used in Air Conditioning, Refrigeration | US EPA](#)
      - Dave argues in favor of moving forward, trying to get R32 but being willing to consider R410 if there is no other choice.
        - Reminds us that these are sealed systems, they shouldn't leak and therefore the refrigerant should not get into the atmosphere
        - Improvements in ASHP efficiency have been in big jumps, and have already happened, so probably wouldn't be another big jump in efficiency
        - Patsy asks, if we wait, how much carbon would go into the atmosphere in a year for these two buildings? Back of the envelope calculation for one building: 1000 gallons of oil = 20,000 pounds of CO2 or 2 tons.
    - We poll the entire committee and everyone is in favor of moving forward with an RFP to contractors for ASHPs for the Library (to replace the heat pump that does not work well) and the Town Offices (to see performance in a building that is used Monday to Friday).
  - Draft RFP
    - Lisa will coordinate work on an RFP, for us to approve at our next meeting, and to bring to the Selectboard for their 11/3 meeting.
      - Cost/Benefit analysis
      - Schedule With Walk-Thru
      - Required sections in Responses
      - Selection Criteria
      - Certification Requirement

- Vendors
      - Use this Google Doc to add vendors to the list
        - [Contractors to Receive ASHP RFP - Google Docs](#)
    - How to Power these ASHPs
      - We do not feel there is time to recommend a solar project for the 2022 Warrant
      - We would like to know where the Selectboard is with the Community Power concept
- Completed Action Items
  - Sandy
    - Ask the Library Trustees if they have any questions or upcoming projects for the TBC
- MFS Building Projects
  - Lisa met with the Selectboard and MFS will bring their projects directly to the Selectboard
- Library: we contacted Kris Finnegan and received this list of minor repairs. Should this Committee get involved?
  - Both of the front doors stick hard to open. Especially the one leading into the library. The front door leading into the Hallway looks good.
  - Paint on the window frames is peeling and around where the book drop is.
  - Front door leading into the library door sticks and window frames need repair and painting and the seal is totally bare wood.
  - If someone was painting with white paint to touch up on the sign post would be really nice.
  - All windows need a paint touch up. Looking at the back door needs a bit of paint windows and door area.
  - Also the second egress from the basement is filled with leaves and sand and Dirt and needs to be cleaned out if these plug the drain there are big problems with flooding into the basement. Best to do before snow.
  - The identifying number one on the building is totally washed out.
  - Also someone may want to check the emergency lights outside. The ones that are supposed to go off and on when leaving the building or coming in. These rarely work, very sporadic.
  - Inside again a little touch up on the doors.
- 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 November 1 at 6 PM in the Town Hall
- Lisa makes a motion to adjourn at 7:22 PM, Sandy seconds, all in favor