



**Stowe Energy Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 25, 2023**

Present via Zoom:

Energy Committee Members: Catherine Crawley, Cap Chenoweth, Robi Artman-Hodge, Julia Biedermann

Absent: Elizabeth Soper, Marina Meerburg

Attendees via Zoom:

Public Works Director Harry Shepard, Assistant Town Manager Will Fricke, Stowe Electric Regulatory Compliance Manager Michael Lazorchak

Call to Order

Energy Committee Chair Catherine Crawley called the meeting to order at 5:36pm.

Approval of the Agenda

On a motion by Robi Artman-Hodge, seconded by Cap Chenoweth, the Energy Committee approved the agenda. All were in favor.

Consent Agenda

1. 11/30/23 Minutes

The Energy Committee agreed to delay approval of the November 30 meeting minutes until the full committee was in attendance at a subsequent meeting.

Annual Town Report Section

Chair Crawley asked if the members in attendance had reviewed the Energy Committee submission for the annual town report. Mr. Chenoweth, Ms. Artman-Hodge, and Ms. Biedermann all replied that they had and did not have further changes.

Ms. Artman-Hodge moved to approve the submission for the annual town report. Mr. Chenoweth seconded. All were in favor.

School Board Letter

Chair Crawley asked if the members in attendance had reviewed the Energy Committee letter to the school board about insulating and weatherizing Stowe High School. Mr. Chenoweth, Ms. Artman-Hodge, and Ms. Biedermann all replied that they had and did not have further changes. Chair Crawley presented an overview of the letter at the request of Mr. Lazorchak. Mr. Fricke asked how the letter would be sent. Chair Crawley replied that it would be an email.

Ms. Artman-Hodge moved to approve the submission for the annual town report. Mr. Chenoweth seconded. All were in favor.

MERP Grant Application

Chair Crawley said the goal is to complete the phase 2 assessment for the Municipal Energy Resilience Project (MERP) grant by the Summer and submit the grant application by October. The maximum award is \$500,000. Mr. Crawley asked Mr. Shepard why the Town opted to use capital funding for the Akeley HVAC renovations instead of the MERP grant. Mr. Shepard replied that the Town may not qualify for the grant, and if it does, the funding may be better served in other areas. The boilers in Akeley are a significant concern regarding CO discharge, and it is important to fix the issue as soon as possible. The third floor theater is also unusable in warm months while the project is not completed. It would be a risk to delay this project for the MERP grant decision, and it is difficult to find contractors to do this work in the current economic situation. Ms. Artman-Hodge asked Mr. Shepard about the origin of the Akeley HVAC project. Mr. Shepard replied that it was established as a priority after the completion of the Cultural Campus Study (Akeley, Stowe Library Building, Ski Museum). Mr. Chenoweth asked if the Town considered a building envelope project. Mr. Shepard replied that in an ideal world they would be able to complete a project like that, but it hasn't been a priority of the town and there are other capital project needs and desires that have taken priority. There are more projects that the town does not have funding or time to take on. Crawley asked for the Energy Committee to be included earlier on in discussions related to Town energy matters. Shepard shared that the Town will meet with the project engineer. An Energy Committee member will attend the meeting to better understand the project.

Electric Mowing for Town

The Equipment Fund includes one electric mower in FY25 and three in FY26. It was agreed last year by the Selectboard that the Town would try one out before committing to multiple electric riding mowers. Shepard asked if the Committee had information on specifications and model types. Chair Crawley said the Committee will provide information to the Town for its consideration of which model to purchase.

Grant Opportunity for DC Fast Chargers

Chair Crawley presented the DC Fast Charging funding opportunity called Charge Vermont, which offers grants to public attractions to offset the cost of adding a Level 2 or DC Fast Charger, and there was a discussion to help Stowe Electric identify a good location in Town for a charger. Stowe Electric is going to apply for this funding.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Crawley adjourned the meeting at 6:47pm