



DRAFT

**Stowe Energy Committee
May 23, 2024**

Present:

In Person: Catherine Crawley, Marina Meerburg, Cap Chenoweth, Andrew Rianhard, Elizabeth Soper
Via zoom: Robi Artman-Hodge
Absent: Julia Biedermann

Attendees:

Assistant Town Manager Will Fricke, Planning and Zoning Director Sarah McShane

Call to Order

Energy Committee Chair Catherine Crawley called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Review & Approve Minutes

Catherine Crawley requested edits to the April 25 minutes. Cap Chenoweth moved to approve the minutes as amended, Marina Meerburg seconded. All were in favor.

Elect Officers

Marina Meerburg moved to elect Catherine Crawley as Energy Committee Chair. Cap Chenoweth seconded. All were in favor.

Elizabeth Soper moved to elect Robi Artman-Hodge as Energy Committee Vice Chair. Catherine Crawley seconded. All were in favor.

Town Plan Discussion & Energy Priorities

Planning and Zoning Director Sarah McShane presented an overview of the Town Plan and the update process. She noted that the Energy Committee is an implementation partner. Robi Artman-Hodge asked who within the Town enforces the Town Plan. Sarah McShane said that it sets goals, policies, and implementation tasks, and those implementation tasks are assigned to different municipal groups and outside groups like Stowe Area

Association, Stowe Trails Partnership, etc. that the Town relies on to implement whatever goal it may be. She also said the Town Manager submits agenda summaries to the Selectboard, and each agenda summary has a section to explain how each agenda item conforms with the Town Plan. She also noted that the Town Plan is not a regulatory document.

Sarah McShane said that throughout the Summer they are targeting July 4 as a kickoff for the Town Plan community engagement process and are planning to have lots of community engagement activities and events throughout the Summer. She invited the committee to attend the Stowe 2050 Community Engagement Partners Meeting at the Stowe Library on May 30.

The Energy Committee then discussed their plan to update the energy section of the Town Plan. Elizabeth Soper suggested having a series of working meetings dedicated to people coming prepared with comments and edits to the energy section. The committee discussed having a shared document where they can make their edits. Will Fricke said they should instead do the work in public session, and they should be warned as working sessions. The committee reviewed their previous draft edits to the Town Plan from 2022, primarily with respect to updates that could encourage or simplify solar energy adoption. Will Fricke offered to reach out to the SolSmart program to ask they send a representative to the July 25 Energy Committee meeting to discuss local government solar energy regulations.

Catherine Crawley asked the committee to look at the 2022 draft edits to the energy section of the Town Plan and come to the next meeting on June 27 with comments and suggestions. She noted that she will not be at the next meeting.

Other Business

Catherine Crawley said the Town will amend the equipment fund to purchase a 60 inch electric zero turn and a 72 inch gas zero turn at the June 12 Selectboard Meeting. She noted that Andrew Rianhard attended a demo this week and provided notes to the Parks and Rec Director.

The Energy Committee discussed the student representative position and advertising the position in the newspaper and at Stowe High School.

Will Fricke said that a new bill passed by the State Legislature, if signed by the Governor, would allow the Energy Committee to meet virtually past July 1, if desired.

Adjournment

There being no other business, Chair Crawley adjourned the meeting at 6:16pm.