

Town of Bow

Energy Committee

Location: 10 Grandview Road, Bow, NH, Room C

Time: 6:30pm

APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Attendees: Jessica Dunbar, Dana Mosher, Michael Leuchtenberger, Stephen Elgert, Alex Grene, Russell Anderson

1) Welcome

Meeting started at 6:32pm.

2) Approval of Minutes

Stephen Elgert made the motion to approve the minutes from the last two meetings; Dana Mosher seconded; all in favor.

3) Quick Updates (Jessica Dunbar)

a. Survey for community stories

The group provided some suggestions for the draft survey. Among other comments, it was suggested to keep Q1, but add to it and reword Q2. Jessica Dunbar will incorporate these comments into a next draft. When the next version is ready, committee can review while also filling it out with any story they have to share.

b. May 12 Roundtable inspirations – shared by Jessica Dunbar, who viewed the Roundtable Zoom event.

i. Window dressers

Jessica Dunbar reported learning about this nonprofit that sets up community builds of storm-like windows to help reduce energy loss in homes in winter. She was struck by the comment during the event that some other towns had difficulty getting participation from residents, but found this project effective for engaging community.

Dana mentioned a similar alternative program called Stay Warm NH; he will look into this and report back.

ii. Solarize campaign

Jessica Dunbar relayed that three towns had collaborated on a Solarize campaign over a one-month period; while this was not ideal as they were crunched for time, it got her thinking that this kind of program might be doable on a shorter time frame than she'd realize.

This prompted discussion about the possibility of conducting home tours/presentations at the homes of people who have installed solar. These visits could be documented and used for outreach as well.

We would like to research whether it is too late to do a solar campaign this year and, if not, what it involves. We would also like to continue to consider a solar tour at our next opportunity.

iii. Collaboration

Jessica Dunbar also said that the theme of the Roundtable was the importance of collaboration among towns and noted that Bow is already working with Dunbarton on the Energy Expo.

c. Business outreach – Community Development

Jessica Dunbar reported that Bryan Westover from Community Development provided a spreadsheet with Bow businesses and contact information. The group agreed this would be very helpful for facilitating energy-related outreach to businesses. She said that Bryan Westover also told her that they are working on a business-focused event at the library, and he will keep her posted on that – may be an opportunity for the Energy Committee to interact with business owners.

d. Horizon Residential – rebates, audits

Jessica Dunbar reported that she called Horizon Residential and was told that people who signed up for audits in 2021 would likely receive them in 2022, but that more recent signups may not get their audit until next year due to the backup. She will keep that in mind for outreach so as to create accurate expectations when promoting the home audit program. She also said that the person she spoke with had intended to send her a summary of the rebate situation, but she has not received this email yet.

e. Rob Werner

Jessica Dunbar heard back from Rob Werner that he is not available in May, but might be able to meet in June.

Jessica Dunbar thought it might be a good idea to ask Rob Werner about the idea of a bus route between Concord and places like White Rock. It was suggested to also seek contacts in the Concord transportation department. Alex Grene said he would research the best contacts. Stephen Elgert mentioned that Delta Dental had started a local trolley, but it didn't take off.

- 4) Portfolio Manager – topic skipped since Chris Andrews and Chris Moore are not present.
- 5) Energy Expo

Jessica Dunbar reported that Expo planning is going well so far. The preferred date for the Expo is October 1; the Dunbarton Energy Committee has already agreed on this date. Dana Mosher moved, Stephen Elgert seconded, and all were in favor to approve October 1 as the 2022 Expo date.

- 6) Possible June mini-event

The Public Drinking Water Committee is doing their annual well testing event from 9-11am on June 11 and June 12. This committee is interested in joining them on June 11 to provide information about the energy committee and display some electric vehicles. Jessica Dunbar said her husband, Chris Dunbar, had reached out to HAREI (Hillsborough Area Renewable Energy Initiative), and they could provide a solar panel display as well.

Member availability for June 11 is limited; Alex Grene, Stephen Elgert, and Russell Anderson cannot make it. Michael Leuchtenberger is probably not available, but he could still offer some of his electric gear. Dana Mosher could attend, and Jessica Dunbar might be able to attend if she can get someone to babysit her kids.

Russell thought maybe we should focus on the Expo, given the short time to prepare and the fact that it happens on graduation weekend. Michael Leuchtenberger pointed out that doing something simple could still be valuable for visibility, and we could take pictures and use them as outreach materials as well. The group supported the idea of seeing whether we can get enough in place over the next week to follow through, and if it's going well, we will proceed to set up a simple presentation.

Jessica Dunbar will check in with Dana Mosher next week to determine next steps. Dana Mosher will consider a possible presentation with the blower door or "house of pressure." Jessica Dunbar will work on a place for community members to sign up for an email list and answer questions, per suggestion from Michael Leuchtenberger, such as what they have done to improve energy efficiency and what the major hurdle is for those considering energy upgrades.

Some additional conversations...

Jessica Dunbar will ask the town if there is information on how many homes currently have solar permits.

Russell Anderson will document his experience getting solar for outreach purposes.

Stephen Elgert suggested inquiring about high school senior projects, as students may be interested in helping with the Expo or other energy projects. Dana Mosher will find out who coordinates the senior projects.

7) June article for Bow Times

No suggestions at present.

8) Community Power – topic skipped due to time constraints

9) Roles – Secretary – no volunteers yet!

10) Planning – potential projects - topics rushed as meeting coming to a close

- a. Neighbors Warming Neighbors
- b. Resources/Checklists for residents

There is interest in pursuing this. Seeking questions from the community at the June 11 can be a good place to start. Jessica Dunbar knows someone interested in solar who might be able to share her questions. Russell Anderson's documentation of his solar experience along with other energy stories would be helpful, too.

- c. Energy Codes
- d. Other...

Jessica Dunbar asked if there were any other topics of interest. Stephen Elgert asked: What are the requirements for wind power in Bow? Stephen Elgert and Russell Anderson offered to inquire with the Building Department on this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.