

Town of Bow

Energy Committee

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

Time: 6:30pm

AGENDA

Wednesday, June 20, 2022

Attendees: Jessica Dunbar, Dana Mosher, Chris Moore, Alex Grene, Stephen Elgert, Chris Andrews, Rick Blackburn

1) Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Dana motioned to approve the last two months of minutes. Alex seconded. All in agreement. Rick Blackburn joined the meeting, having been in contact with Jessica Dunbar about the Energy Tour. He works for a cement company and has been a Bow resident 9-10 years.

2) Portfolio Manager – RBG Proposal

Jessica Dunbar passed out Resilient Buildings Group's proposal to input two or more years of municipal buildings data into Portfolio Manager for the purpose of measuring and tracking energy usage. The proposal includes money contributed by Liberty (\$562.50) and Unutil (\$787.50), leaving a request of \$1800 to be provided by the Town. Chris Andrews noted the proposal was initially going to include the schools, but Chris Andrews asked that they be removed since the school acts separately on this matter.

Chris Andrews suggested two paths forward for acquiring the money needed: (1) Put it into next year's budget, which would postpone the project until at least January 2023; or (2) Talk with David Stack, Town Manager, to seek approval for the funds more quickly. He thought the money would likely be available, and if Path (2) was not approved, we would still have time to request the money through next year's budget. If we could get David Stack's approval by August 4th, the Selectmen would be able to vote on the proposal at their August 16th meeting.

Jessica Dunbar will ask Tonia Lindquist to set up a meeting, hopefully next week, with David Stack, Jessica Dunbar, Chris Andrews, Chris Moore, and Dana Mosher.

In addition to Town buildings, the proposal also includes Baker Free Library. Chris Andrews will check with Martin Walters, Director of the Library, to see if they are interested in remaining part of the proposal and having their energy use data included.

Jessica Dunbar will also ask Tori Gerlt of RBG: (1) if future data can be uploaded automatically or if it will need to be entered manually; (2) if the proposal includes any initial training; (3) if they recommend any training resources or sales pitch videos.

3) Button Up Workshop – Time, Location etc.

Jessica Dunbar said that she has been in touch with Robbin Adams of PAREI and scheduled the Button Up workshop for September 22nd with Andy Duncan as the presenter. To move forward with promoting the event, a few more details need to be established:

Location. Jessica Dunbar suggested the library and said that she has already checked, and the Library is available on 9/22. The group agreed this was the best place to hold the presentation. Rick Blackburn said that space can accommodate at least 50 people. Jessica Dunbar will move forward with reserving the downstairs room at the Library.

Reservations. The group agreed that registrations were important to provide an idea of how many people to expect, but that it should be optional. Suggested wording: “Registration strongly encouraged as capacity is limited. RSVP by 21st. Walk-ins welcome.”

Time. The group agreed that 6:30pm was a good starting time.

Local Partners. The Energy Committee will be a local partners. The group suggested seeking the Library and Town of Bow as other partners.

It was suggested that we consider inviting Dunbarton to the presentation.

Stephen Elgert raised the point that the schools sometimes have their open houses in mid-late September. Could a school event create a conflict? Jessica Dunbar will contact the schools to make sure there are no significant conflicts on September 22nd.

It was noted that Eversource rates are going up at end of summer. Chris Moore added that Unitil rates are also expected to jump in December. The Button Up is well timed to address people’s concerns about utility costs.

4) Neighbors Warming Neighbors – Equipment and other Preparations – SKIPPED (due to lack of time)

5) Energy Tour – Finding Participants, Possible Dates, Other Details

Jessica Dunbar said that, so far, her house is the only definite home for the Energy Tour. She said that someone on Facebook mentioned that their home, which has geothermal, might like to be part of the event, but they have not confirmed. Rick Blackburn, who has solar with a battery backup system, might also be able to participate, but he has some reservations about having people at his house.

Chris Andrews suggested including the Old Town Hall and said he could provide information about the insulation work that was done. It was suggested that Rick Blackburn do his presentation at the Town Hall as well, and that we could enhance that location further by having some EV owners in the parking lot.

Rick Blackburn has a projector that would be helpful for presentations. Chris Andrews said he could speak to Bob Ives or his son Eric

Chris Andrews suggested limiting participants to about 30 people, ~10/house, since this is the first tour. We can keep it small and see how it goes and do another in the future if it's successful.

The group discussed possible dates for the tour. Chris Andrews said Saturdays in September were wide open for the Old Town Hall. It was booked for October 22nd. Rick Blackburn is not available the second half of October. The group thought September 17th, the Saturday before the Button Up presentation, would make a good date if it worked for the host homeowners.

Stephen Elgert has solar, heat pump hot water heater, and three heat pumps with propane backup. His home has some similar features as Jessica Dunbar's, but would make a good backup if we need an additional home with these features.

Chris Andrews mentioned he knows of some community-minded Tesla owners, such as Harry Judd and Bob Couch.

Stephen Elgert suggested inviting the Garden Club, and the group added that others to invite are the Men's Club and Rotary Club. It would be a good idea to ask the Rotary Club for help with publicizing all the events. The Rotary Club has a new president: Michelle Fortin. Michael Leuchtenberger may be a member. Rob Werner is another member who would be a good contact. The club meets every Friday for breakfast.

6) Closing Comments