

# Town of Bow

## Energy Committee

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

Time: 6:30pm

APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

Attendees: Jessica Dunbar, Dana Mosher, Chris Moore, Alex Grene, Stephen Elgert, Chris Andrews, Ed McMonagle, Michael Joslin

### 1) Welcome and Approval of July Minutes

We welcomed two guests to our meeting: Ed McMonagle and Michael Joslin. They have each volunteered to be part of the Energy Tour.

Stephen Elgert moved to approve the July minutes; Dana Mosher seconded; all in favor.

### 2) Federal Grants – Chris Andrews asked for this topic to be added.

Chris Andrews mentioned the federal Inflation Reduction Act and how it could present funding opportunities for the Town. He suggested our group start looking at what these opportunities might be. For instance, what might be available for solar on the Town buildings and/or as a large array. He said we should present our ideas by next spring to have them ready for the 2024 budget.

Chris Moore mentioned that the federal grants go through the NH Dept of Energy, and he should have knowledge of when and what will be available when that is known. He said no money will be distributed until at least October. Chris Andrews is interested in learning more about the grants, and Chris Moore said the NH Dept of Energy would probably be the best resource for that information and that the Public Utilities Commission website may be another possible source.

### 3) Neighbors Warming Neighbors

a. Interest and availability

b. Equipment and other preparations

Dana Mosher said he has a blower door, but would need to borrow a CGI and thermal imaging camera. He said the library used to have a Kill-A-Watt, but they don't anymore. Jessica Dunbar suggested seeing if they might consider acquiring one again for people to borrow.

### 4) Portfolio Manager – RBG Proposal

a. Board approval 8/16

b. How many years back for Unitil data?

Chris Andrews suggested we ask for at least five years of data on the Town Hall (insulation was done in 2017) and the Old Town Hall (heat pumps were added in 2017; insulated in 2020). He said Department of Public Works is stable, the Safety Center is only five years old, but we could use some history on the Community Building for future planning. Chris Moore added that having more years allow correlation to weather patterns, which can yield more insights. We concluded that ten years of data would be ideal. Jessica Dunbar said she would ask Tori Gerlt of RBG if that number of years was possible.

c. Getting started

Chris Andrews and Jessica Dunbar have sent emails to Tori Gerlt seeking advice on getting started on the project.

5) Button Up Workshop

a. Signups so far

Jessica Dunbar said there have been about 10 signups so far.

b. Handouts

The group suggested various materials to include in a packet to be left on attendees' seats: Chris Moore's LED article; NHSaves rebate summary; announcement of other Energy events; past Bow Times articles.

Alex Grene expressed concern about NHSaves funding issues and how we can make sure people come away from the presentation understanding which rebates are secure and where there may be barriers, delays, or lack of funding.

Mike Joslin brought time of use strategies, how this is something you need to sign up for and how it's not right for everyone. He thought this would be a good thing to inform people about and explain.

6) Energy Expo

a. Availability/shifts

Dana Mosher will be available for the whole day; Chris Moore can be there for whatever's needed; Stephen Elgert and Alex Grene are also available that day.

It was suggested to contact the school's Community Service Coordinator for help finding a kids' activity volunteer; Jessica Dunbar said she'd sent a request to the school mid-summer, but they had to wait for school to start to share it with staff/students.

b. EVs: Jessica Dunbar said that more EV drivers are needed. Mike Joslin will contact his Tesla group to ask for volunteers!

- c. Energy Committee display  
The group proposed some ideas for the Bow Energy Committee's table at the Expo:
  - i. Dana - House of Pressure (2' x 2' x 3')
  - ii. Chris M. – Thermal Camera
  - iii. Chris M. – Kil-A-Watt (where to get one?)
  - iv. Mike – has light bulbs for display
- d. Primaries – Check with elections committee to see if it is possible to have a table at the primaries.
- e. Signs – where to place them?  
Chris Andrews suggested contacting the administrative assistant for the Police Department to ask about using their sign.  
End of 89 near Grappone is a good place for a sign.  
Talk to school about posting and adding to their signs.

## 7) Energy Tour

Ed McMonagle has participated in a solar energy tour put on by a larger organization in the past. Thought he got around a dozen visitors.

Jessica Dunbar shared copies of several forms/documents she'd prepared for the event.

- a. Date  
Jessica Dunbar explained how she has considered several dates, and September 24<sup>th</sup> seems to be the date that works best given participant availability. Stephen Elgert moved that the Energy Tour be on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>; Alex Grene seconded; all in favor.

Dana Mosher was going to give the presentation about the Old Town Hall renovations, but he will not be available that weekend. Chris Andrews is also not available. Stephen Elgert volunteered to give the presentation. Chris Moore said he may be able to help.

Chris Andrew is reserving the Old Town Hall for that date. Jessica Dunbar will confirm with and get the key from Tonia Lindquist.

The group decided 9:30am was a good start time for people to gather at the Old Town Hall.

- b. Tour schedule/logistics

The group liked the format of having people start all together at the Old Town Hall before dispersing to individual homes.

c. Registration form

The initial plan from previous discussions had been to divide people into groups based on their interests. The group questioned whether this was necessary and determined that we should wait to see how many people sign up and divide into groups only if that number is large enough to be concerned about too many people starting at the same house.

Ed McMonagle suggested changing “electric lawn mower” to “electric lawn tools” on the registration form because he, for instance, has not only a mower but also an electric chainsaw, weed wacker, and log splitter!

Chris Moore expressed concern about people signing up so last minute that it would create difficulty in final preparations/logistics. It was suggested to offer a prize for pre-registering by September 22<sup>nd</sup>, and that raffling off a Kill-A-Watt meter would make a good prize. Chris Andrews said he would order one.

d. Homeowner survey (stories)

Chris Moore thought questions #9 and #10 (about challenges and benefits) were confusing following questions # 7 and #8 (which ask about specifics for solar and electric vehicles). He said he wasn't sure whether #9 and #10 were asking just about solar/EVs or about any energy upgrades. Jessica Dunbar will move questions #9 and #10 before #7 and #8 to avoid this confusion.

Ed McMonagle talked about how snow was getting stuck on his roof until he got a metal roof. Mike Joslin thought it costs about \$250/panel to take panels off and put them back on when replacing a roof. Chris Moore wondered if solar panels have an effect on insulation. Mike Joslin mentioned there are new panels with hot water pipes underneath.

e. Participant packet

Chris Moore said it would be important to print the final participant packet in color because the map was not clear in black and white.

f. Feedback surveys

g. Availability

Chris Moore asked about getting Energy Committee tshirts to make us more recognizable at events. It was also suggested to see about getting our own logo; maybe students could be involved in this.

h. Photographs?

Jessica Dunbar said she'd asked Eric Anderson if he could take photos at the Energy Committee's fall events; he was interested, but traveling. Ed McMonagle said his wife might be able to take some photos at his house. It was suggested to add a question to the registration form asking if participants are ok having photographs of them posted.

Mike Joslin recommended UnDecided, which has lots of energy-related information.

8) Library Table Display for September and Promotion for All Events

Jessica Dunbar has reserved the library lobby for the month of September as a way to help promote the committee's events. She presented the poster she'd started, which includes three flaps for people to open to see more details about each event.

Stephen Elgert suggestions adding "Save Money" somewhere on the poster.

Chris Moore suggested adding "Your Friends at the Bow Energy Committee."

9) Closing Comments

Chris Andrews suggested talking to the Town Manager about getting the committee a small budget since we are now entering budget season. Should also talk to Tori Gerit and look at Dept of Energy to see about grant options.

Chris Andrews suggested having next month's meeting at the Old Town Hall and using some of the time to go over the Old Town Hall presentation that will be given at the Energy Tour.

Chris Moore said he has an old projector if Rick Blackburn doesn't bring his.

Jessica Dunbar will connect to Chris Andrews next week about preparations for the Old Town Hall presentation.