

Town of Guilford
Energy Committee Meeting Notes—Draft

5:30 pm Thursday April 22, 2021 via zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/92234224699?pwd=MmpXeTlwYkg5SnFCRGRFYSE96TFawdz09>

Meeting ID: 922 3422 4699

Passcode: 189375

Dial by your location: 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Call to order: 5:34 pm

Energy Committee Members Present: Nancy Detra, Ann Zimmerman, Thayer Tomlinson, Gary Swindler, Chris Beebe

Recognition of Public: William Jewell and Tupshin Harper

Updates & Discussion:

- What one-time money for climate-related projects could do for Guilford? Ideas:
 - Work with GMP for a solar charging station at the Guilford store- since Market 32 has a Tesla charging station, this could be a good location for a non-Tesla charging station. Could also put in one at the school or Town Office.
 - Solar panels at each of the charging station locations.
 - Consider plug-in hybrid local bus for those in Guilford who cannot drive themselves (could be under Guilford Cares purview).
 - Weatherization funding – since there is a workforce limitation on weatherization, could we look at more training on weatherization work at BUHS to get a younger workforce engaged.
 - Weatherization at the Guilford School – what are the windows and heating/cooling systems? Including solar panels at the school.
 - Brattleboro is collecting methane from farms to create power with the Cow Power system (GMP) – could Guilford farms participate in the network?
 - Pay for more homes to get the Tesla wall batteries; have microgrids run off solar panel farms that can service more condensed areas of Guilford. Would need to strategically locate solar panel arrays to fit into microgrids for different parts of town.
 - Talk with road crew to see if they have heavy duty vehicles that need replacing, could see if we could target those for replacement with electric vehicles or hybrid.
 - Brattleboro purchasing electric cargo bikes that would be for rent for town errands. Would this work in Guilford?
 - Bike/Ped RFP – expanding bike/ped lanes throughout Guilford. Add on to existing funds there.
 - Home centers or daycare centers – complete weatherization; how to make the library net zero and fossil fuel free.
- Enhanced Energy Plan & data from WRC – Thayer reached out to Margo Ghia at Windham Regional Commission on enhanced energy planning. Margo will provide updated energy data for Guilford this week as well as examples of other towns' enhanced energy plans. At our next meeting, Thayer would like to present this information to the committee members and have a fuller discussion on what this could mean for Guilford.
- Joint Regional Energy Committee Gathering feedback

- Nancy and Ann attended and met a number of other town representatives that are on energy committees. One idea that was discussed is how to set up weatherization programs for mobile homes and how to put information out on weatherization programs.
- Window Dressers
 - Started planning on setting up a Window Dressers program for the plan. The Window Dressers team could schedule volunteer days once we generate projects for it.
 - Nancy suggests we get on the schedule for a Window Dressers training in August 2021. She will serve as the main contact and will look at where we might do this – will add to the next meeting’s agenda. Locations mentioned included the Guilford Fairgrounds.
- Solar Map update
 - Gary sent the map to Margo at WRC and she put Gary in touch with Jeff Nugent at WRC to investigate the GMP solar map to get updates on our map directly from WRC. Has not heard back yet.
 - He has not gotten this out to locations (BCC under construction), Town Office is still closed due to COVID-19, school (Thayer has not yet heard back from teachers), Gary reached out to potentially posting at the Guilford Store.
 - Gary talked about how to set up the map on a large scale with color. Needs to be able to be updated – he is working with Lotus Graphics to be able to pull the map out and put another in there when we need updates.
 - We decided to get 5 maps (BCC, Town Office, School, Store, Green River Covered Bridge).
 - For contact information on the map – suggest adding “contact the Town Administrator for more information” on the map for now.
- Language to 2021 goals
 - Communications: One of our major goals should be disseminating information to those in Guilford – how do we best put information out there?
 - Will focus on goal language in May 2021 meeting.
- Communications
 - Gazette article on Energy Committee. Chris will draft an article on the Energy Committee, what our goals are and use that as the basis for the article. Thayer will provide the energy portion of the Town Plan to everyone on the committee.
 - Who on our committee can better get information out on energy opportunities into FPF, Facebook, etc.?

Other Updates

Schedule Next Meeting: Thursday, May 27, 2021

Close of Meeting: 6:37pm