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Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

Meeting Minutes

PO Box 409
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Energy Committee

Date of Meeting: January 7, 2025, at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

Members Present: Andrea Bacchi (Chair), Bill Christian, Wayn Goodman

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:03 p.m.**

2. Conflict of Interest Statement

No committee members reported a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the previous meeting's minutes was **tabled**.

- Ms. Bacchi will send the minutes to committee members for review.
- Any issues or corrections should be sent via email.
- The committee will vote on approval at the next meeting.

4. Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5. Committee Goals

a. EV Charging Station Proposal Discussion

- Wayn reached out to **Green Mountain Power (GMP)** and spoke with Josh (last name unknown).

- The **Town of Bennington** is transitioning from covering EV charging costs to having users pay due to rising expenses (from \$60/month to \$300-\$400/month). They plan to implement **ChargePoint** as of **February 1, 2025**.
- **Maintenance requirements** are minimal, including quarterly cleaning of the plug contacts.
- Major maintenance issues encountered:
 - A charging station was **backed over by a vehicle**.
 - A driver **drove off with the charging cable still connected**.
- The committee discussed potential locations for **Level 2 chargers**, which are more practical for Shaftsbury than Level 3 chargers due to infrastructure costs and geographic considerations.
 - **Level 2 chargers** are ideal for locations where users **park for long durations** (e.g., firehouse, town hall, or school parking lots).
 - **Level 3 chargers** require **three-phase power**, which limits location options.
- **Security concerns** were raised regarding vandalism and copper wire theft. The committee discussed the possibility of installing **dummy or real security cameras**.

Next Steps:

- Wayn will forward the additional information from Bennington about maintenance costs and the transition to a **fee-based** system.
- Naomi (town contact) will present findings to the **Shaftsbury Selectboard** for further discussion and approval.

b. Potential Speaker for Future Meeting

- Ms. Bacchi suggested inviting a representative from **Heat Squad** to present at a future meeting via Zoom.
- **Heat Squad provides weatherization audits and grants**, and their services are available in Shaftsbury.
- The committee agreed that a recorded presentation would be beneficial for **public outreach** and could be shared via the town website and email campaigns.

c. Email Campaigns and Public Outreach

- Ms. Bacchi will draft and send out **bi-weekly email updates** to Shaftsbury residents with concise energy-saving tips, available grants, and updates on committee projects.
- The emails will link back to the **Shaftsbury town website** for more detailed information.

- Topics for emails may include:
 - Energy efficiency tips
 - Weatherization grant opportunities
 - EV charging updates
 - Recycling and waste reduction strategies

Next Steps:

- Ms. Bacchi will draft sample emails for review by committee members.

d. Building Energy Efficiency (Medical Office Purchase)

- The town is considering **purchasing the medical office building** for use as a community center.
- The committee discussed **energy efficiency upgrades**, including:
 - **Replacing outdated electric wall heaters** with modern systems.
 - Installing **solar panels** on the roof (potentially a good site for solar due to **minimal shading**).
 - Upgrading insulation and HVAC systems.
- The **fire inspector and electrician** will conduct a **walkthrough** of the building in the next 1-2 weeks.
- Ms. Bacchi offered to **stream the walkthrough via Zoom** for any committee members unable to attend in person.

6. Other Business

- Discussion about **electric landscaping equipment** as a more sustainable alternative to gas-powered tools.
- **Electric lawn mowers, chainsaws, and snowblowers** are becoming more accessible and practical.
- **Potential grant funding** is available for converting municipal vehicles and equipment from diesel to electric.

7. Review of Action Items

- **Ms. Bacchi** will send out the previous meeting minutes for review.
- **Wayn** will forward additional EV charging information from Bennington.

- **Ms. Bacchi** will draft initial email campaign content for review.
- **Ms. Bacchi** will reach out to **Heat Squad** to schedule a presentation.
- **Committee members** will consider attending the upcoming **medical building walkthrough**.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Christian moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Motion was **seconded and passed unanimously**.