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Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

Meeting Minutes

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Energy Committee

Date of Meeting: February 4, 2025, at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

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

Guest: Ned Woods

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Chair Ms. Bacchi.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement:

No conflicts of interest were reported.

3. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the January 7, 2025, meeting were reviewed. A correction was noted regarding the omission of a last name. A motion was made to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

4. Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

5. Presentation by Melanie Paskevich, HEAT Squad

Melanie provided an overview of home energy audits and efficiency improvements, including:

- The importance of weatherization and energy audits for reducing energy costs.
- Available financial assistance and rebates for energy efficiency projects.
- Discussion on home energy efficiency best practices and strategies.
- A discussion followed regarding the availability of funding and the hiring of energy auditors in the Bennington area. Committee members also inquired about potential collaboration with local initiatives.
- Any Vermont residents interested in HEAT Squad programs should contact them.

6. Committee Updates:

- Ms. Bacchi announced that the Shaftsbury Energy Committee email campaign is launching soon. A sign-up form has been created and will be promoted on Front Porch Forum, social media, and the Shaftsbury Revitalization Digest.

- A dedicated email address for each committee member has been set up for committee communications.
- A discussion was held regarding scheduling guest speakers for future meetings. It was agreed that having a presenter every other meeting or quarterly would be the most effective approach. Potential speakers include representatives from Renewable Energy Vermont, Brock Community Action, and other energy-related organizations.

7. Action Items:

- Ms. Bacchi to finalize the email campaign draft and send to Wayn and Bill to review and suggest edits. Once they approve the emails will be scheduled on a bi-weekly basis. Ms. Bacchi will distribute the sign-up form for more sign ups.
- Ms. Bacchi to reach out to potential speakers for future meetings.
- Ms. Bacchi will give Bill his committee email envelope from the Operations Coordinator.

8. Adjournment:

Wayn made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by: Chair, Andrea E.
Bacchi Date: February 4, 2025