

Sharon Energy and Environment Commission
Meeting Minutes
By Zoom and by phone
Friday, November 20, 2020 8:00AM

PRESENT: Lyn Mattoon, Katy Kinsolving, Roger Liddell, Doug Rick, Jan Dudek, First Selectmen Brent Colley.

1. Roger made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2020 meeting. Jan Dudek seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.
2. SOLAR PROJECT: SEEC members met with Sharon Selectmen on 10/27 to present the case for the town's participation the CT Green Bank Solar Municipal Assistance Program (MAPS). There was a discussion with First Selectman Brent Colley about next steps.
 - Brent confirmed that at the November 10th meeting, the Sharon Town Selectmen gave SEEC the green light to proceed to the next phase. The next step is to work with the CT Green Bank Solar Municipal Assistance Program staff to find an appropriate property. It was noted that three phase power is not universally available in town. Doug Rick will contact Emily at the Green Bank MAP program to see if this is a requirement.
 - The pros and cons of other town-owned properties as possible sites for the solar array were discussed with no resolution.
 - Lyn noted that the Sharon town Finance committee suggested doing that the town build the solar field themselves. SEEC members agreed that it is imprudent to go that route as it will be more costly and take much longer.
 - Doug reiterated the process: the next step is to contact the Green Bank. They send their people out to assess the site. The town of Sharon will suggest sites. The Green Bank people look at all potential sites and negotiate. Doug will get in touch with Emily to move the process to the next step.
3. HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY: The Commission reviewed effort to publicize and promote the current Home Energy Solutions Program through the letter to the letter to the editor of Lakeville Journal. Katy reported that at least one resident of Sharon had written her to say that she was getting a home energy audit because of the letter. There is no other way to measure the effectiveness of the Lakeville Journal piece. Roger will drop by the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon to examine the new Kill-a-Watt provided by Eversource to see if it is a more recent version of the device than the one donated by SEEC, (kindness of Roger).

4. SHARON POND There was an update on efforts to preserve open water on the Sharon pond which is gradually being overtaken by vegetation. Lyn has visited the pond with Bob Gambino and Mike Nadeau. The most recent advice is to preserve some open water, not reclaim the pond as it once was, but to reclaim some open water for animals, migrating birds, turtles. The idea is to put in a small weir to elevate the pond by a foot, keep the cattails and the phragmites (a non-native, aggressive reed that is encroaching on many wetland areas) at bay. Lyn will contact the Wetlands Commission with this idea. Brent suggested beavers.
5. NEW MEMBERS FOR SEEC. There was another discussion about candidates for commission membership. Members unanimously agreed to invite Michael Nadeau to join SEEC. There was a discussion about moving the meeting time to encourage a broader range of participants to join the commission. Everyone agreed to schedule meetings at 5:30 pm, going forward in 2021.
6. Approve meeting schedule for 2021 (Attachment A)
 - a. **Next month's meeting will be December 18, 2020 at 8 am.**
 - b. Doug moved to adjourn / Katy seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

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SHARON TOWN CLERK

Attachment A

**Sharon Energy and Environment Commission
Schedule of Meetings for 2021**

Meetings will be held in the Sharon Town Hall at 5:30 PM unless otherwise noted.
Sharon Energy and Environment Commission

January 28, 2021 Thursday

February 25, 2021 Thursday

March 25, 2021 Thursday

April 22, 2021 Thursday

May 27, 2021 Thursday

June 24, 2021 Thursday

July 22, 2021 Thursday

No Meeting August

September 23, 2021 Thursday

October 28, 2021 Thursday

November 18, 2021 Thursday

December 23, 2021 Thursday.