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*By Linda Amerighi at 2:25 pm, Feb 14, 2024*

## MINUTES

### Sharon Energy and Environment Commission

February 6, 2024

Present: Roger Liddell, Mike Nadeau, Lyn Mattoon, Shrevie Shepherd, Helena Furberg-Barnes, Jane Strong

Absent with apologies: Katy Kingsolving, Doug Rick

Minutes of January 2024 meeting **APPROVED**

Lyn began the meeting by welcoming Jane Strong officially as a member of SEEC. Jane had a cordial welcome call from First Selectman Casey Flanagan prior to this meeting.

Lyn then explained that she had been looking into the situation with the new heat pumps at the Sharon Center School. For reference, the new pumps were originally programmed for air conditioning and not for heat, thus requiring the school to continue to rely on oil for heating the school. Lyn informed the commission that although the system was not programmed for heat, it could be and had been manually manipulated to supply heat. She attended the last Board of Education meeting but did not obtain any further information on the reprogramming and utilizing the heat pumps. Lyn will follow up and gather more information. **TO DO LYN**

**TO DO Roger-** Have a conversation with Board Of Education Chair Doug Cahill about developing a long term plan to heat the school.

The conversation turned to the conditions set by the Planning and Zoning Commission in their recent approval of the solar array next to the Sharon Center School. The conditions include:

1. Disassembling the array when the contract expires: The Greenbank will disassemble the array when the contract expires, but the town has the option to buy it.
2. Maintaining the property: The town will be responsible.
3. Storm water run-off: The installer, Verogy will deal with storm water run-off. Mike suggested that instead of gravel filled troughs, environmentally appropriate rain gardens be installed. This may or may not involve extra costs. Mike will talk to Emily at the Greenbank about a rain garden. **TO DO MIKE**
4. Proper screening of solar arrays: Lyn informed the committee that First Selectman Flanagan has been talking to the Greenbank about screening. Several plans have been proposed which will be taken up by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Cost will be a factor as the cost of screening will be reflected in the PPA. Mike will contact Casey Flanagan to discuss his plan before the next Planning and Zoning meeting next week. **TO DO MIKE**

The Commission then discussed our plan to promote meadows and pollinator friendly landscapes. Mike has agreed to give a presentation and will ask Michelle Alfandari of Polinator Pathways to join him. **TO DO MIKE.** The library will display books on native landscapes and we hope to organize a slide show displaying before and after pictures of meadows to be shown on an ipad in the library. **TO DO MIKE.**

Lyn to discuss dates and availability at the library **TO DO LYN**

As another educational initiative, Jane suggested we host a presentation for homeowners interested in installing solar panels. Jane will contact James LaPorte to discuss. **TO DO JANE**

Lyn informed the committee there is money to advertise the Community Roadside Clean Up day on April 20. **TO DO HELENA AND SHREVIE** It was also determined that we should put an advertisement in the Lakeville Journal and have Casey Flanagan add this event in his Selectman's letter. Lyn will also try to find someone to drive the town truck to pick up the collected material. **TO DO LYN**

Lastly, a replacement for the Chairman of SEEC was discussed. No one was nominated and the committee was tasked with thinking of a proper replacement.

MEETING ADJOURNED 6 35pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Shrevie Shepherd, Secretary SEEC