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**Town of Middlebury**

**Energy Committee Meeting Minutes (no quorum)**

**Wednesday, Aug 14, 2019**

Present: Liv Herdman, Lindsey Fuentes-George, Howard Widelitz, Diane Munroe

Absent: John Snyder-White, Van Barth, Richard Hopkins, Steve Maier, Ross Conrad, Lisa Bernardin

Guests: Chris Kramer

Howard started the meeting at 8:55 AM

**Collaboration with Middlebury College:** Nothing to report at this time. Trying to set up a meeting with Jack Byrne and others from the college. Diane indicated that if she saw Jack at work she would remind him of our desire to meet.

**Revolving loan fund update:** Plan to review GRITS software used for tracking sustainable projects with Montpelier. Still waiting for the date of the meeting to be determined, most likely in September.

**Purchasing Policy/RFP updates:** There will be continued work on this with Diane for items beyond the more immediate concern of the library. Howard shared correspondence from Matt Sargent (Efficiency Vermont) informing him that electric resistance heat is in violation of the energy code for commercial buildings and should not be installed in the library. Heat pumps will hopefully offset most of the heating needs, making the secondary heat source less critical. Howard is still working on a spreadsheet that will help with the ongoing decision making for equipment and vehicle purchases, but identified the abstract nature of some of the parameters.

**JouleSmart :** Chris Kramer (who has a contract with JouleSmart and works closely with Efficiency Vermont) shared information with us about some commercial financing opportunities for energy efficiency projects.

Because efficiency projects are hard for businesses to assess the returned value, JouleSmart developed a program for energy efficient projects with a guaranteed savings model. It tends to work better with larger buildings, but they are developing tools for smaller buildings, in part by taking a pooled approach. JouleSmart pays to install building management systems in addition to other improvement (eg., LEDs) and variable frequency drives for HVAC systems. Efficiency Vermont is promoting this as an option for customers. This program works well with cash strapped businesses or businesses with other major capital needs.

Joule Smart will not provide a guarantee for projects with a payback longer than 5-7 years such as would be needed for some types of projects such as weatherization. Chris identified another company with a similar model to JoulesSmart that does provide up to 20-year contracts. He said Megan Chambers is Efficiency Vermont's Middlebury representative and that we could schedule some walkthroughs with her and Chris for the town buildings.

Lindsey asked whether the town could join its buildings together to have large enough buildings for the program? Chris was uncertain and can get back to us.

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**Committee member issues/updates:** We discussed whether it should be part of our mission to do outreach and increase awareness of some available programs. Two that were discussed were those brought to our attention by Laura Asermily. One was for Efficiency Vermont weatherization incentives and the other was to promote electric vehicles through free electric vehicle rides if it is decided to bring the program to Middlebury. It was also discussed that perhaps some strategic planning may be useful. Lindsey suggested that we are in the process of building a framework right now, and that may be all we have at the end of the year, but then we will be well positioned to pursue projects. Howard reminded us that we do not have to spend the capital money right away and that any unused portion will roll over to next year.

Meeting fadeaway, no vote to adjourn as there was no quorum.