**June 23, 2021 ECC meeting**

**Attending:**
Tom Konrad, ECC chair

Alan Newman, ECC member

Olivia Fleming, ECC member

Amy Moses, ECC member

Iris Bloom, ECC member

Doug Adams, ECC member

Eric Stewart, Town Board & ECC member

Chloe Rychcik, Intern SHV

Rachel Dames, Intern SHV

Ben Eckstein, SHV

Jim Hoover

Melissa Everett, SHV

Siddhartha Lama

Stuart Leigh

Mannajo Greene

Need to follow up with Henry Rich for application to ECC.

Move approving May minutes to next month

**100% renewable energy event**

Iris will be away in July, so put air conditioning ahead of lawn discussion (*Honey, I shrunk the lawn*). Ben has produced a flyer for the event. Do we want another speaker for air conditioning? Eric volunteered to help with lawn discussion. Ben and Olivia volunteered to help.

July: Find a speaker. Significant interest in someone from one of the companies that install mini-splits as a speaker. Wait for green purchase to see which company is picked; pick them for speaker. Tom will take charge.

Throw SHV’s discussion of EV’s into the calendar when it gets set.

Clean power guide distributed through Marbletown (e.g., library, coop)

Eric suggested something about monarch butterflies, which could be the second part of *honey, I shrunk the lawn*. Suggested that we do live, possibly as a garden tour. Also about wildlife habitat. Could do a garden tour in fall. Form a subcommittee to plan: Iris, Eric, Olivia, Alan.

**Group Purchase Update**

Sent out a form. Energy Coaching from SHV’s Ben and Rachel; they can work people through opportunities. Possibly reaching out to people who took advantage of the earlier group purchase program; tell the story of going through the process.

Applications from businesses for the next Group Purchase just came in. Hoping to launch soon in June. SHV plans to produce stickers: *I took the pledge*. Also suggested lawn signs, as long as it doesn’t compete with the election signs. Note: Cheaper to order signs when there isn’t an election in progress. (Add signs to agenda for next month. Ask Melissa whether SHV wants to distribute signs wider than Marbletown.) Sign might say: I took the pledge; add a website or QR code. Problem: How will folks read the signs as they drive past.

The group purchase will start with contract signed by Nov 14

Services: Air source heat pumps, air source water heaters, air source, ev plugs, services,

Setting up tables at events, such as Solarize Ulster.

**FlexTech**

100% grant to study a building. Stone Ridge Library is going after the grant. Due by the end of June. Tom suggested High Falls pumping station. Would need the cooperation with Rosendale. Probably a moot point.

**Clean Energy**

Board passed STRETCH code unanimously. Waiting for minutes.

Opt-out solar may be having some problem with the consolidated billing.

On the other hand, can’t get the points for the Clean Heating & Cooling Demonstration because Marbletown didn’t update the hot water heater. Tom hopes to persuade the Board to pay for a new system. Heat pump water heater could cost around $3K to buy and install, but would be worth it since it could get a $70k.

**Investment & Preservation Committee**

Meet with Open Space Institute to see how we can partner. Looking at 2 properties; trying to figure out if they are worth it. OSI seems very interested in kicking in money. The properties are not been announced in order to avoid raising the purchase cost.

**Final comments on Ashokan Release EIS**

Reported by Stuart Leigh:

Worked with Ashokan Release Working Group (ARWG) to draft a response, which has been submitted. To write the response, ARWG hired a consulting group with a hydrologist and other expertise. One of the biggest take aways: Requesting a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, because the submitted document didn’t live up to consent decree and rejected some of the built options. The complexity of the built options needs a more detailed review than provided to date. No evidence for releases of only 15 million gallons per day (mgd); should be more like 100 mgd. Others suggested 64 mgd. Also, need to examine ramping up and down the water flows; being careful about what times the releases occur. Also need to look at biological health: No habitat suitability study for the flows. Adaptive science should be included. Cultural and architectural issues raised by ARWG response.

Marbletown submitted the ECC’s document and a resolution.

Stu emphasized macroinvertebrates and biosampling. WAVE monitoring could help make the sampling more regular. Anyone interested. July 7 DEC is going back to sampling for insects.

**Solar mapping**

Reported by Mannajo Greene:

A mid-Hudson sustainable energy plan was published in 2013, and that group responsible has been meeting continually since that time to address NY’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection 2030 goals.

One model effort is a solar mapping conducted on Long Island with the help of the Nature Conservancy. A similar effort is taking place in the mid-Hudson with the aid of Scenic Hudson. Goal: Where are the areas where we can allow solar development, which are the less good sites, and which areas that shouldn’t be developed. Get a few communities to try Scenic Hudson’s tool. Big challenge is getting solar-generated electricity to NYC. Good areas for solar farms may not easily connect to the grid. Another issue is limited grid capacity, which could be dis-incentive. Could get a number of municipalities to work with Scenic Hudson, which can be mentors to other places. The project includes looking at roof tops, parking lots, brownfields. Help developers better target land for projects. Goal is to model how to do this.

Marbletown’s solar law limits the amount of tree removal for solar farms and protects farmland; lowers building fee for roof top solar.

Asking the state to intervene to lower the cost of interconnection to the grid. Also bring the grid to where the solar farms can be developed. A fair cost share between developer and energy company. Going from uni-directional grid to multidirectional. Working now on bottlenecks in the grid that slow the distribution of electricity. Lack of capacity is a big issue. Marbletown could be a classic example of how much potential there is and where the grid capacity needs to be increased.

Asking Marbletown to part of the experiment. Already have a site that is capacity limited. Write a resolution to push for the grid to be expanded. Start to work with the solar mapping tool to make an inventory. Look at areas for development and not good for development. (add to the next agenda on whether to use the tool).

**New and Leaving ECC members**

The ECC voted to forward Siddhartha’s application letter to join the ECC to the Town board. Amy is stepping down from the ECC. Emma Markle has officially resigned from the ECC.

**Next meeting**

Meet in person? Possible technology solution for online members. that looks at 360 degree view. Possible legal issue on whether the ECC needs to meet in person.

Adjourn: 9:16