Attendees: Richard Stockdale, Liz Fletcher, Garth Fletcher, Michele Siegmann, Dave Morrison, Curt Spacht, Kathy Chapman, Darrell Scott, Michelle Scott.

Ray and Michael from Shelburne, NH (population 350) guest speakers on how to get a town to turn to solar to save energy

The right to know meeting checklist was read. Approval of minutes by roll call was unanimous. See above

Ray and Michael have a well organized presentation.

- 3/19 after Town Meeting, Ray requested to work on solar for the town. Michael joined him. They got in contact with Clean Energy NH, and moved forward. Eversource was not helpful. In Sept 2019, they obtained quotes from 5 solar installers. They tried to get bids by Nov. They planned to ask Selectfolk for a trust fund. They found that they could get the cost of a bank loan covered by the energy savings as long as the loan interest rate was low enough. They got a line of credit for $60,000 for solar/electric. They could use as much of it, in as small or large amounts as needed.
- They decided on 42 panels generating 18 Kw. They selected the lowest bid of the quotes they got by $5000, some were as high as $10,000. They had to get buy in from the Town Meeting. 603 Solar is the name of the company that was chosen, and they worked with an electric company. The installation started in mid July of 2020—despite Covid pandemic. Ray feels that keeping Selectfolk informed was crucial.
- The size of Shelburne -- 350 people -- made it easier to get the word out about the project. At Town Meeting, 50 people voted by secret ballot, and 47 were in favor! **Community Education**: Before Town meeting: handed out flyers at the transfer station. 2 public info meetings were held but only a few people attended. One of the questions/objections was why put it on the roof of the building, why not across the street? It would cost more due to long cable, so they chose roof top. Their unofficial Energy group does not have a budget.
- Non waxing formula, which allowed the Town to borrow. Interest rates were low, about 2.53%. The cost of the solar was about $34,000. They did not have a contract with Eversource, but now they do have, and Eversource still has to buy the excess energy. Only 3 people in town had solar and they were able to supply their monthly data. Ray and Michael had the data on each of those locations to share with Selectfolk and to use in modeling! The new solar panels cover just the town hall energy use. Later they plan to do the fire house. Other buildings don't lend themselves to solar. They got a PUC grant and this was not a huge amount but made a difference in making it revenue positive.
- Michael: Having Selectfolk on board was very important. You can get a power purchase agreement—get an outside investor to pay for panels, and then you pay the investor for the energy you produce. Michael says the bank loan was a better deal. Selectfolk were very reluctant and did not really want to save money to put toward solar. Town doesn't always use the same amount of energy each year. $2500/yr cost of Eversource, and get revenue from sale of solar. NH doesn't pay much for the energy, but MA gets 10 x more. The solar provides revenue from the 1st day.
- How to frame your argument: don't talk about it as the green thing to do, think of it as revenue! The nudge they needed. That's how they got the buy in the town. Garth asked about since this is only for the Town Hall, the other buildings can't be covered. The solar array covers 85% of the town's energy use. But only the Town Hall bldg. pays for itself. The formula for energy use is not straightforward, but has many factors in the formula besides energy costs, transmission, and distribution and more.

- Clean Energy will help. A good company helps with the array. PVWatts has a model. Michael used PVwatts to take Ray's data. They figured out the energy needed, and Selectfolk agreed to $15000. Dick asked what the results are compared to the estimates? Town had bought a contract from another energy company, so they just got rid of that contract and now they will get paid for the energy. Prior to that they paid for the transmission and distribution, and not the energy

Kathy asks shall we pursue solar on a town building? The Highway department could add panels. We need the modeling on energy use for the Hwy department, and we could check with other buildings. Dave and Darrell, and Mike McGuire, and Kate Messer volunteered to work on this.

Website creation to be done outside of MEC.

Virtual tour update: Darrell will add the school, and also Mark Arsenault's newest solar installation. Curt will use the drone to take some school pictures. There is a passive solar and another totally independent solar houses on Nutting Hill Rd. Mark's house is a good example of HAREI's work. Publish these on an energy savings website.

Educational opportunities. Dick says the educational effort at the school is at a standstill. We could add the energy projects for students to the town information as well. Dick likes the idea of flyers at town meetings. Can we put up a poster at the Town Hall, and the school? Once Dick feels we have the info to send out on the projects, we could post it on the 3 FB pages in town. (Michelle Scott can do this.)

Building Inspector info: Liz suggests trees (small ones like dogwood) and helping people orient their house for solar as they plant the house. She will continue researching that. Liz will ask Joe Harney for help. Maybe a cartoon version of information

EV webinar "drive electric" week. Curt went to 3 of the 4 webinars. Tech for cars is here today! Problem is charging, and now there are portable batteries, and you can take it somewhere to recharge. NH is light years behind everyone else in NE. NH charging stations are 50 miles apart, Vermont's are 20 miles apart. In NH only 1 in Dartmouth and Keene, and Lincoln, Hooksett, plus the Concord, Manchester, and Nashua. If you drive a lot, EV are cost effective. For less driving, they are not that efficient. VW has 2 models for EV. BMW, Audi, Volvo all have EVs. Nissan Leaf is still available for less money. Vehicle to grid technology is sort of net metering for your car! It could pay your car payments! Several companies allow the car touse their battery to return power to the grid. Will be on the market next year.

Heavy vehicles are still not practical yet. School busses can be charged in less than 8 hr. The use of mobile batteries could be better each year. Vehicle to grid is one way to make energy!

Liz moves we ask for our $1000 for the budget request, same as last year. Second by Dave. Roll call Michele Siegmann, Michelle Scott, Liz Fletcher, and Kathy Chapman. Voted yes.

The Energy Solution webinar is coming up. 2 free tickets, and the low price for any. Let Kathy know if you want to go, check your email for the notice. Or check here! https://www.universe.com/events/local-energy-solutions-conference-tickets-09M54P Free for 2 people from our group, $50 for anyone else, $25 for Kate ==> we have money in the MEC budget for this conference
Community Aggregation petition, we decided to review this next month if it is still available.

Michele Siegmann made a motion to adjourn, Dave Morrison seconded it. Adjourned at 9:22 on,