

## Ferrisburgh Climate and Energy Committee

Organizational meeting, 25 May 2023, 7 pm

Minutes Approved

Attending: Kurt Haigis, Arabella Holzapfel, Jim Averill

Kurt Haigis and Arabella Holzapfel were appointed by the Selectboard to the Ferrisburgh Climate and Energy Committee at the Selectboard meeting on 4 April 2023. Jim stated that he has sent a letter to the town asking to be appointed and will be on the Selectboard agenda at an upcoming meeting.

Members agreed that the committee will meet monthly, on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 7 pm.

Kurt Haigis reviewed activities that have been undertaken with respect to climate and energy in Ferrisburgh:

- The Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department would like to replace the fluorescent lights in the fire station with LED units. Kurt presented a quote from RCI Electric for \$9,000 for the full retrofit. Jim said he had not previously seen the quote. It was decided that Kurt would send the quote to Red Muir, copying Jim and Arabella, so the Ferrisburgh Town Buildings Maintenance Committee (which Red chairs) can review it and explore possible funding sources.
- The Ferrisburgh Climate and Energy Committee will collaborate with the Vergennes Energy Committee in presenting an “Energy Fair” at the Vergennes Green on 15 July 2023. Kurt showed a list of about 25 organizations that will be participating.
- We reviewed the Municipal Energy Resilience Program, an initiative of the State of Vermont Buildings and General Services department.
  - Community Capacity Building: In April, Arabella had filled out an application form to receive a Community Capacity Building mini grant of \$4,000 for Ferrisburgh. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, she received notification that Ferrisburgh had been awarded the mini grant. Kurt asked Arabella to send documentation to Pam Cousino, Ferrisburgh Town Clerk. A portion of these funds will be Ferrisburgh’s contribution to the Energy Fair.
  - Free assessments: BGS is offering two levels of free Building Energy Resilience Assessments – Level One is a 1.5-hour walk-through; and Level Two is an investment-grade energy audit, which takes about 4 hours – for town-owned buildings. (The assessment program is described in this pdf: [https://bgs.vermont.gov/sites/bgs/files/files/energy-environment/MERP%20Assessments%20Flyer\\_not\\_open.pdf](https://bgs.vermont.gov/sites/bgs/files/files/energy-environment/MERP%20Assessments%20Flyer_not_open.pdf) ) The following buildings were identified as being owned by the town and therefore eligible for assessment:
    - Town Office and Community Center
    - Town Garage
    - Fire station
    - Historical Society (former town clerk’s office)
    - Union Meeting Hall
    - Former Methodist Church
    - Recreation facility adjacent to the school

- Ferrisburgh Central School – which will require a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Ferrisburgh and the Addison Northwest School District. (Negotiations for this are underway?)

At the next (and first official) meeting, the committee will discuss how decisions will be made. Additional agenda items will be gathered so that an agenda can be sent to the town clerk's office no later than seven days prior to the meeting on 22 June 2023.