

## Ferrisburgh Climate and Energy Committee

### Agenda

Wednesday, 7 May 2025, 10 am

In person at Ferrisburgh Town Offices

Members present: Kurt Haigis (Chair), Arabella Holzapfel, Jim Averill

- 1) Call meeting to order
- 2) Review and approve minutes of previous meetings.
  - a. Minutes from the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved unanimously.
  - b. Motion was made to approve minutes from the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting as amended via email, including attachments. Approved unanimously.
- 3) Old business
  - a. Tru Engineering and Red Muir discussions

Jim reported that he talked with (Jeremy? Jason?) from Tru Engineering regarding the quote Jeremy had provided to the Ferrisburgh Buildings and Maintenance Committee (BMC). Jeremy explained that when he prepared the quote, he had not understood that Ferrisburgh had already obtained an assessment through the MERP program. The work described in the quote was equivalent to the MERP Assessment, so there is no reason to hire Tru Engineering at this time. In further discussion, Jeremy recommended against getting heat pumps for the Firehouse because of the loss of heat that occurs when the overhead doors are opened and trucks exit. Heat pumps do not handle these transient loads well. A high efficiency propane boiler is recommended instead to replace the aging oil-burning boiler. Jim then spoke with Red Muir, chair of the BMC, regarding heat pumps versus a high-efficiency propane boiler; Red concurred with Jeremy that heat pumps would be inadequate for heating a firehouse. Jim expressed that when we decide what to do with the Firehouse that we hire Tru Engineering.
  - b. Discussions with Brian Sewell from the State of Vermont, and Maple Broadband

Following his conversations with Jeremy and Red, Jim contacted Brian Sewell, the State Energy Program Manager in the Buildings and General Services department of the State of Vermont, to learn how we need to address the required documentation for high-speed internet access that is specified in the MERP Implementation grant. Brian explained that the State needs to have documentation that the Town of Ferrisburgh has a plan for developing broadband access throughout the town. Jim contacted Steve Huffaker, Chair of the Maple Broadband board, and received sufficient information to meet the needs of the grant. (Maple Broadband has a plan for providing broadband throughout Ferrisburgh, but the plan is currently not funded.)

Another question from the grant that Jim brought to Brian pertained to certifying that appropriate buildings are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Brian confirmed that the Firehouse does not need to be compliant, and the Fire Inspection certificate is sufficient to document compliance for the Town Offices and Community Center.

4) New business

a. MERP Artifact submittals

We discussed the requirement that we comply with the Town's procurement policy in hiring for services and purchases of equipment, etc. We reviewed the most salient points of the policy (particularly that we need to get at least two quotes for most purchases). Kurt agreed to send an electronic version of the policy to the other committee members.

b. Proposed changes to MERP Statement Of Work (SOW)

The current Statement of Work in the grant specifies "Install heat pumps." That needs to be changed to "Install high-efficiency propane boiler." Kurt said that the committee should explore all non-fossil fuel options before changing the SOW. Jim agreed to talk with Red about this.

5) Other business

Jim asked if he can get quotes for the air sealing and other aspects of the Firehouse project so progress can be made. We agreed that was a good plan.

6) Meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Arabella Holzapfel