

**VLITE Board of Directors Annual Meeting:
Stowe Electric Department
435 Moscow Rd, Stowe, VT**

**Minutes of September 9, 2021
Approved on December 8, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 1:05

In attendance:

Board members: Dick Marron, Richard Rubin, Hal Cohen, Tony Klein, Pat Moulton, and Annie Noonan. Peter Walke arrived late.

Others: Gabrielle Malina. TJ Poor, Department of Public Service and Craig Peltier ,Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and Peter Schneider, Efficiency Vermont presented on Zoom.

Approve Minutes of June 2021

- A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2021 Board of Directors meeting.
 - 1st - Richard Rubin, 2nd – Tony Klein
 - All in favor

Review Informal Reports

Staff reviewed grant progress and unofficial reports grants payable of \$709,989 and committed funds of \$1,076,762. The report demonstrates that the board is committing well within its means.

Other staff updates: The board approved a \$100,000 grant Office of Economic Opportunity at the June meeting, and OEO has since declined the grant. Geoff Wilcox said that prior to presenting the application to VLITE it was unknown that wood stoves would be an allowable use for incoming federal funding. OEO explained that they do not have enough capacity amongst weatherization agencies to spend all the money.

The board discussed whether staff should put out a press release or other, more targeted notification of RFP soliciting new grant applications.

Approve Extension to Energy Futures Group Zero Energy Now grant

- A motion was made to extend the EFG ZEN grant until December 31, 2022.
 - 1st - Richard Rubin, 2nd – Tony Klein
 - All in favor

Treasurers Report

Treasurers Report read: Treasurer Annie Noonan provided bank account balances. As of August 20, 2021 there was \$1,507,652 in savings \$58,081 in checking, \$8,692 in money market.

- A motion was made to accept the report.
 - 1st - Hal Cohen, 2nd – Richard Rubin

- All in favor

Update on Zero Energy Modular Homes Grant

Craig Peltier of VHCB and Peter Schneider of Efficiency Vermont updated the board on progress with zero energy modular homes and the VLITE grant for solar PV. The grant is just under 50% utilized with eleven homes coming online since January of 2020. Progress has been hampered by the pandemic and supply chain delays and workforce issues.

A major milestone, a new provider, KBS Homes out of Paris Maine is now producing zero energy-capable modular homes and is introduced to the regional market.

There have been technological innovations as a result of this ZEM-focused grant, including streamlined mechanicals with fully distributed heating and conditioning system. Also working with National Renewable Energy Lab to bring the technology to multifamily homes.

Peltier requested a grant extension until April 30, 2023 so that the original goal of thirty zero energy homes could be achieved.

Comprehensive Energy Plan 2022 Update

TJ Poor, Director of Efficiency and Energy Resources, Public Service Department presented an update about the progress of the new Comprehensive Energy Plan, due by January 2022. The CEP is meant to provide a framework in which energy policy decisions are made.

The Department is engaging in a robust stakeholder engagement process in conjunction with the Climate Council of the Global Warming Solutions Act and the Climate Action Plan. The CAP and CEP will also collaborate on energy modelling.

The new plan retains as its starting point the goal of 90% renewable by 2050 as well as statutory greenhouse gas reductions requirements. Initial modelling shows that GHG emissions reduction targets for 2025 are achievable but the 2030 target is a much heavier lift. Current technologies can achieve it but it's a matter of the pace of implementation.

The new plan will focus on a strategic plan that identifies tradeoffs among policies with review of differing perspectives - societal and customers. The last plan did not lay out a clear strategy.

When asked how the new CEP might affect VLITE's grant process moving forward, Poor said the new plan will have more focus on grid optimization and equity. The Plan will contain more strategies to reach 90 by 50 and GHG requirements with actions that are more clearly linked to strategies and a clearer decision-making framework.

Vote on adoption of new policy for selection of VELCO Directors

- A motion was made to approve a policy that sets term limits of six years for VLITE-appointed VELCO directors. The policy also lays out that replacement of the current directors shall be staggered. *The discussed document is attached as well as the adopted version of the policy.*
 - 1st – Hal Cohen, 2nd – Tony Klein

- All in favor

Board Recruitment Discussion

Board members provided updates on outreach efforts to possible recruits for the VLITE board. A new plan for outreach was discussed.

The board adjourned at 3:30 pm.