MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

April 6, 2022

MINUTES

This meeting was totally on Zoom. Present: Leanna Maglienti, Andy Nagy-Benson, Elizabeth Gleich, Cathy Chase, Mal Chase, Michelle Brown, Janet and Churchill Franklin, Robin Bentley, Gail Heitzker, Ian Phair, Rich Carpenter, Jon Andrews, and Nancy Foster.

Leanna called the meeting to order at 6:03. Elizabeth offered the opening prayer. She offered blessings and thanks for the hard work of the people who are bringing this proposal to our Church.

Leanna reminded us that the only item on our Agenda is to listen to and ask questions about the Solar Project Proposal for our Church. We will be taking action on this proposal at our regular meeting next week.

Ian gave a detailed presentation of the proposal. He explained how a for-profit partner works well with non-profit organizations to make solar projects more affordable for the non-profits. That is the mission of the Vermont Solar Fund, of which Ian is a principal. This proposal is to install 90 solar panels of the south facing roof of the Church addition. There will be no saving for the Church for the first 10 years, since we will be using the payment we make to Green Mountain Power to pay for the solar installation. After about 10 years, VSF will sell the solar panels to the Church for about $10,000, or the Church will receive a 50% reduction on our power bill.

In response to a question from Mal, Rich said we thought about solar panels on this roof at the time the addition was being built, but did not do it to keep cost down. Rich also explained that we could sell some of our shares in the ACORN project (they can be sold to other participants in ACORN) if we decide that we don’t need to have more solar power than we actually use.

Jon Andrews said the Trustees discussed the issue of producing more power than we use, and decided that we could find other uses for the extra power. They could be given to other non-profits until we find a way to use the power ourselves. He also pointed out that if the price of power goes up, our savings will be higher. There were several other questions from other Council members, all of which were answered by Ian, Jon or Rich.

Andy said he is very supportive of this proposal, as is the Green Team. There was a discussion of the best ways to get information about this project to members of our congregation. It was informally decided that the office would send out an email to everyone on our email list which would contain the same information that was sent to us before this meeting. Ian and Leanna volunteered to be the two that would be available to answer questions about the project.
suggested including the drawing of what the project will look like with the email. Council members were generally supportive of this project, even though no motions were made and no action was taken.

There being no further questions, it was moved, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Foster

Clerk