

**Minutes**  
**Dummerston Energy Committee**  
**Monday, December 6, 2021 @ 6pm**  
**Dummerston Town Office**

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:12pm:
  - a. Eric Lineback, Calvin Farwell, Doug Morton, Mark Kracum, and Alex Wilson were in attendance.
2. Welcomed our newest member, Mark Kracum, to the committee.
3. Welcomed guests: No guests present.
4. Reviewed agenda: Added Dummerston Congregational Church basement lighting; added Maple Valley project update.
5. Approved minutes from the October 4, 2021 meeting:
  - a. Motioned by Alex; seconded by Mark; unanimously approved.
6. Covered bridge lights:
  - a. There are now no functioning lights; we suspect there is either a short in the line or a blown circuit breaker.
  - b. ACTION: Mark will check the circuit breakers soon.
  - c. We will request the Philips Gardco 121 product (10 fixtures each producing 3,465 lumens at only 28W) for donation; still to be determined if they will be donated.
  - d. Eric reported that the bridge insurance policy does not appear to have any specific lighting requirements.
  - e. Eric again pointed out that 8 interior lights may not really be necessary; perhaps 4 would be fine?
  - f. On a related note, given the recent incidents of trucks hitting the bridge, Mark suggested the town look into installing some kind of warning system.

7. Global Warming Solutions Act (Act 153) Climate Council and Climate Action Plan:
  - a. We are continuing to follow the process.
  - b. The council published an “initial” plan on December 1 that the legislature will now consider.
8. Federal infrastructure bill – what does it mean for Vermont?:
  - a. Doug reported on his research on the “Build Back Better” bill, which will direct about \$2.2 billion to Vermont.
  - b. The funds will impact many areas of concern to DEC, including transportation, EVs, and water infrastructure.
  - c. The big question: What funds will come to Dummerston, and how should those funds be prioritized?
9. Transportation & Climate Initiative Program (TCI-P):
  - a. Eric gave an update on the program and current developments.
  - b. CT and MA have recently bowed out, leaving just RI and DC in the pact; this jeopardizes the prospects of VT joining the effort, which was an important part of the new Climate Action Plan.
10. Draft 2022 Comprehensive Energy Plan (PSD):
  - a. Eric gave an update on the process and current developments.
  - b. The PSD recently published their draft version of the updated CEP and has been gathering public input through virtual and in-person hearings; DEC members have participated in the process.
  - c. Comments are due by December 20 at the latest, and the final plan will be published in January.
11. REV2021 Annual Conference:
  - a. No members were able to attend, although a recording is available to watch.

12. SEON's 6th Annual (Virtual) Home Tour – thoughts and takeaways?:

- a. Eric was the only member who attended; a recording is available to watch.
- b. Three projects were covered; the most interesting was a house in western MA built using hempcrete (hemp hurds and lime mortar) which is a very promising new product that has many benefits, including significant carbon sequestration.

13. Annual VECAN Conference (December 4-9):

- a. Eric encouraged members to attend the conference (which is currently ongoing).

14. Annual committee report for the town (due 12/10):

- a. ACTION: Eric will work on the report this week.

15. Electric vehicles (EVs) and eBikes:

- a. We discussed how best to move this project along; Doug will take the lead.
- b. Doug has been doing significant research and raised several issues to consider regarding EVs, including lithium mining and recycling issues; these issues bring into question the environmental friendliness of these products.
- c. ACTION: Doug will continue his research, as well as start gathering the info we need to replicate the Thetford tool on our website.
- d. ACTION: Eric will reach out to Kevin about the project and expected website needs; he will also reach out to Laurie about alerting residents and seeking their assistance; he will also reach out to neighbor John Quain (a local tech blogger and product tester) to ask for his involvement and input.

16. Dummerston Congregational Church basement lighting (new agenda item):

- a. Mark wants to see if we can help the church convert its basement lights from fluorescent to LED, as it is commonly used by the town for various business.
- b. ACTION: Mark will contact Efficiency Vermont to check into programs and funds that may be available to support the project.

17. Maple Valley project update (new agenda item):

- a. Alex attended the recent Act 250 site visit and reported on project progress; things are moving along again after pandemic- and permitting-related delays.
- b. Alex reminded the new owners that DEC is willing and able to help in various ways regarding energy usage and conservation.

18. New business: No new business.

19. Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm. Next meeting will be held on January 3, 2022 at 6:00pm at the town office.