

Minutes
Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, March 7, 2022 @ 6pm
Online via Zoom

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm:
 - a. Calvin Farwell, Doug Morton, and Alex Wilson were in attendance.
2. Welcomed guests: No guests present.
3. Reviewed agenda: No new items.
4. Approved minutes from the February 7, 2022 meeting:
 - a. Motioned by Doug; seconded by Alex; unanimously approved.
5. Covered bridge lights:
 - a. No new updates.
6. Federal infrastructure bill – what does it mean for Vermont and Dummerston?:
<https://www.vlct.org/arpa>
 - a. Doug reported that, according to the ARPA state-to-local funding table, Dummerston will receive a total of \$182,575.44 in two equal payments, the first coming this August.
 - b. ARPA includes four broad criteria outlining eligible uses: 1) To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality; 2) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers; 3) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID–19 public health

emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and 4) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

- c. We discussed further Alex's idea for using these funds to build a sewage treatment system for West Dummerston Village, which has experienced failing private septic systems, and perhaps work with the new owners of Maple Valley to do so; it does appear that this project would meet the criteria for use of these funds (see #4 above); but it was agreed by all that this initiative should be proposed by resident(s) of that village, and could then be considered by the Selectboard.
- d. ACTION: Doug will reach out to the Selectboard to ask about their general plans and process for the use of these funds.

7. Electric vehicles (EVs) and eBikes:

- a. The proposed Buyers Guide continues on hold, as we are trying to determine the best form for it to take.
- b. ACTION: Eric and Doug will continue to coordinate with Kevin about the project and any expected website needs.

8. BikePed project proposal:

- a. Background: Daniel Hovis from Putney is working with towns in Southern VT to implement a series of bike/pedestrian improvements (trails and paths with interconnections to other towns); he suggests setting up a committee to advise the town's Selectboard as the first step; the Bellows Falls Selectboard has already voted to implement such a committee; he is hoping that someone from the Conservation Commission or Energy Committee can facilitate that effort for Dummerston.

- b. ACTION: We will look at this more in depth for a future meeting to see if there is any interest, and then make recommendations for moving forward.

9. VNRC Climate Action and Resilience in Vermont Webinar Series:

- a. Tabled until next meeting.

10. VECAN 2022 Workshop Series:

- a. Tabled until next meeting.

11. Transportation Innovation Act (H.552):

- a. Tabled until next meeting.

12. Environmental Justice Bill (S.148):

- a. Tabled until next meeting.

13. Clean Heat Standard Bill (H.715):

- a. Tabled until next meeting.
- b. ACTION: Doug will look into this and report on it at the next meeting.

14. Municipal Energy Resilience Initiatives Bill (H.518):

- a. Tabled until next meeting.

15. New business:

- a. We discussed recruiting volunteers for possible sub-committees, starting with a Climate Sub-committee; to be discussed further.

16. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm. Next meeting will be held on April 4, 2022 at 6:00pm via Zoom (or in person if possible).