

Minutes
Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, April 3, 2023 @ 7pm
Online via Zoom

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm:
 - a. Eric Lineback, Calvin Farwell, Alex Wilson, and Doug Morton (joined late) were in attendance.
2. Welcomed guests:
 - a. No guests were present.
3. Reviewed agenda:
 - a. No new items were added.
4. Approved minutes from the March 6, 2023 meeting:
 - a. Motioned by Alex; seconded by Eric; unanimously approved.
5. Town solar power project:
 - a. Calvin started gathering the data we need from the town, including all of the 2021 and 2022 electric bills (there are five accounts total).
 - b. ACTION: Calvin will continue to collect any remaining data, including details about the community solar program the town joined.
 - c. ACTION: Eric will upload the electric usage spreadsheet that was started several years ago by Stan to Google Drive, so we can all work on the data, and he will assist Calvin as needed.
 - d. ACTION: Once we have analyzed the usage data and have an idea as to the town's current and future needs, Doug will contact 2-3 solar installers to get the ball rolling on proposals and estimates.

6. Covered bridge lights:
 - a. No updates at this time; Alex is waiting for the initial pictures from Eric.
 - b. ACTION: Eric will take some pictures at dusk for the image collection.
 - c. ACTION: Then Alex will reach out to Philips Gardco about getting a professional photographer to take more pictures for their PR use.
 - d. ACTION: We will prepare an article for a future *VOD* newsletter.
7. Town garage lighting:
 - a. No updates at this time; we are waiting for Stan's report and recommendations.
 - b. ACTION: Eric will continue to follow up with Stan.
 - c. ACTION: Eric will check on Efficiency Vermont rebate requirements.
 - d. ACTION: Then we need to contact 2-3 installers to get the ball rolling.
8. Dummerston Community Center energy assessment:
 - a. No updates at this time.
 - b. ACTION: Alex and Doug still need to finalize their written report; Eric will then edit the report and send it to the Community Center board for review and action.
9. New member search:
 - a. The new *VOD* issue with our call for new DEC members has been out for a few weeks; still no responses.
 - b. ACTION: Eric will continue to reach out to folks who had previously expressed some interest.
10. Electric vehicles (EVs) and eBikes:
 - a. The new *VOD* issue with our request for input and feedback on a potential EV Ambassador Program has been out for a few weeks; still no responses.
 - b. We will hold off on this project until we assess town feedback.
 - c. ACTION: Eric has requested that Laurie send out a town email as well and will collect any feedback.

11. Affordable Heat Act (S.5):

- a. Eric provided an update; we continued to discuss the various pros and cons; the legislation is quite controversial.
- b. ACTION: We need to decide what action (if any) to take as a committee regarding the legislation.

12. Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP):

- a. Alex and Eric both attended a webinar about the program; there are others coming up as well.
- b. Eric asked if the town had completed the survey sent out by WRC regarding MERP; he forwarded it to Alex for review and possible action.
- c. We discussed possible projects for the initial “mini-grant” program, including studying the creation of a town “resiliency hub” and doing further energy audits.
- d. ACTION: We need to decide on what project(s) to recommend.

13. Renewable Energy Standard (RES):

- a. Eric provided an update.
- b. There has been criticism that the program does not actually encourage *new* renewables development.

14. New business:

- a. We discussed the prospect of moving our monthly meetings up to an earlier start time of 5:00pm; we will take a vote next month on a permanent time change.

15. Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm. Next meeting will be held on May 1, 2023 at 5:00pm via Zoom.