

**Minutes
Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, May 1, 2023 @ 5pm
Online via Zoom**

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:37pm:
 - a. Eric Lineback, Calvin Farwell, Alex Wilson, and Doug Morton 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 April 3, 2023 meeting:
 - a. Motioned by Doug; seconded by Alex; unanimously approved.
5. Town solar power project:
 - a. Calvin reviewed the data that he gathered from the town and the Sky Solar community solar project; the solar project covers about 75% of the town's needs and saves the town about \$1,600 per year; total annual usage is about 26 MWh.
 - b. ACTION: We will all get any remaining questions to Calvin, and he will follow up with Sky Solar (Greenbacker).
 - 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: Doug will initiate contact with 2-3 solar installers to get the ball rolling on proposals and estimates.
6. Covered bridge lights:
 - a. No updates at this time.
 - 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. Stan submitted his report with recommendations while the meeting was in progress; we will all review it soon.
 - b. The committee voted to authorize Eric to present the report to Lee when ready.
 - c. Motioned by Alex; seconded by Doug; unanimously approved.
 - d. ACTION: Eric will continue to coordinate with Stan.
 - e. ACTION: Eric will check on Efficiency Vermont rebate requirements.
 - f. ACTION: Eric will review the report and make any final edits, and then submit it to Lee for action.
8. Dummerston Community Center energy assessment:
- a. We agreed at this point to just send the CC board a note letting them know that we are available to help with any energy-related needs.
 - b. ACTION: Eric will write up a note, get input from the committee, and then send it to the board.
9. New member search:
- a. Laurie sent out a town email, and we now have a couple possible new leads.
 - b. ACTION: Eric will continue to follow up with folks who have expressed some interest.
10. Electric vehicles (EVs) and eBikes Ambassador Program:
- a. Laurie sent out a town email, and we now have heard from 20+ people expressing interest in the program.
 - b. We agreed that there is enough interest to go ahead with the program.

- c. ACTION: Eric and Doug will work on designing the program and coordinate with Kevin to implement it through the town website.

11. Affordable Heat Act (S.5):

- a. Eric provided an update; the bill has now passed out of the house; Governor Scott has vowed to veto it, but his veto will likely be overridden.
- b. ACTION: We will continue to follow this controversial legislation.

12. Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP):

- a. Doug and Eric both attended another webinar about the program.
- b. We further discussed the program and possible projects for the initial "mini-grant" program, including studying the creation of a town "resiliency hub" (possibly at the Community Center), doing further energy audits, and updating the DEC website.
- c. ACTION: Alex will start working on the idea of a town resiliency hub.
- d. ACTION: Alex will discuss the "mini-grant" program with the selectboard and whether or not DEC should directly apply for it.

13. GMP micro-grid project in Panton:

- a. Eric provided an update.
- b. Alex discussed how GMP recently presented to the selectboard on electric grid resiliency in light of the recent storms and associated outages; there is also a micro-grid project going on in West Brattleboro.

14. New business:

- a. We agreed to move our monthly meetings up to an earlier start time of 5:00pm permanently going forward.
- b. Motioned by Calvin; seconded by Doug; unanimously approved.

15. Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm. Next meeting will be held on June 5, 2023 at 5:00pm via Zoom.