

Minutes
Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, September 11, 2023 @ 5:30pm
Online via Zoom

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:38pm:
 - a. Eric Lineback, Calvin Farwell, Alex Wilson, Thomas Nolan, and Doug Morton were in attendance.
2. Welcomed guests:
 - a. No guests were present.
3. Welcome new committee member Thomas Nolan:
 - a. We all introduced ourselves and gave a hearty welcome to our newest member.
4. Reviewed agenda:
 - a. Alex added an item concerning discussing the future of the committee (see item #11 below).
5. Approved minutes from the July 10, 2023 meeting:
 - a. Motioned by Alex; seconded by Doug; unanimously approved.
6. FY2025 town budget request (due October 18, 2023):
 - a. Given the funds currently in the DEC account, including the recent award of a MERP “mini-grant” of \$4,000, we agreed that the committee would not make a town budget request for the upcoming fiscal year.
7. 2023 ENERGY STAR Day (Wednesday, October 11, 2023):
 - a. Eric explained the nationwide effort and program.
 - b. ACTION: Eric will include an announcement and relevant information in a town email to be sent towards the end of the month, as well as post something to FPF.

8. PSD Clean & Renewable Electricity Team community outreach events:

- a. We reviewed this effort and discussed our participation; however, it looks like no members will be able to attend the currently scheduled local events.

9. Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP):

- a. Doug and Eric provided updates on the application process.
- b. We were awarded a “mini-grant” of \$4,000; we have submitted an application for energy assessments, which will require some minor updates; these include the town office (Level 2), community center (Level 2), and town garage (Level 1).
- c. ACTION: Alex will continue working on the idea of a town resiliency hub.
- d. ACTION: Doug will update the assessments application and work on collecting the required information from the town.
- e. ACTION: We will follow up with the community center board about how MERP funds could be used to make some of the improvements they are seeking.

10. 2023 Button Up Vermont Program:

- a. Eric requested and received various promotional materials, including postcards, posters and yard signs.
- b. ACTION: Eric will include an announcement and relevant information in a town email to be sent towards the end of the month, as well as post something to FPF.
- c. ACTION: Eric and Calvin will distribute promotional materials to the town office, town library, community center, etc.

11. Considerations regarding the future of DEC:

- a. When we go back to in-person meetings, we would like to start meeting at the community center.
- b. We discussed possibly changing the day of the week we meet, but agreed to stick with Monday; we will start meeting at 5:30pm, however, in order to accommodate our various schedules.

- c. We discussed possibly changing the name of the committee to something broader, such as “Dummerston Energy and Resiliency Committee” or similar; we will continue to brainstorm for a new, more engaging committee name.
- d. We all agreed to work on better and more proactive outreach to and engagement with other town entities, including education regarding what we do, and seeking to have more input where relevant and appropriate.

12. Town garage lighting:

- a. Eric provided an update; the report is almost complete.
- b. ACTION: Eric will incorporate final feedback, make final edits, and then submit the report to Lee and the Selectboard for action.

13. Town solar power project:

- a. There was not enough time to cover this item; it will be added to the next agenda.

14. Electric vehicles (EVs) and eBikes Ambassador Program:

- a. There was not enough time to cover this item; it will be added to the next agenda.

15. New business:

- a. No new business.

16. Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm. Next meeting will be held on October 16, 2023 at 5:00pm at the town community center (pending availability).