

Minutes of the Peacham Energy Committee – 6-June-2022

Peacham Library Conference Room

Those present: Chair Allie Webster, Tom Bryer, Jock Gill, Bruce Westcott. Online: Harry Vann

1. Call to order: 7:09 PM
2. Additions to the agenda – Jock suggested a discussion of \$8 fuel to item 8.
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Motion to approve minutes of May 2021 (Tom/Jock) approved unanimously.
4. Public comment period – No members of the public attended
5. Peacham Community Solar – The project has achieved 100% subscription, along with a waiting list. The site could be commissioned as early as this fall. The next step is the PUC Certificate of Public Good. GMP will do a site visit soon, and it has been inspected by experts from the VT Division of Historic Preservation. There will be a report on the aesthetic impacts of the project. Bruce asked when the Governance Structure will be enacted. Allie said that the Select board is signing the agreement which provides a 10% discount on power credits. Jock brought up the possibility of having a WEC array; Dorie will be looking into this. We will discuss further at the following meeting. Jock noted that tariffs on solar panels have been rolled back, though this will not impact construction costs for the Peacham array.
6. Peacham Public EV charger at Library – Jock spoke of having directed two out-of-state drivers to use the new charger. We have gotten very good press coverage of this new resource. There was a very hopeful and positive discussion of the growing market for domestic batteries.
7. Campaigns and Events – Tom provided an update on Window Dressers: Tom reported on a meeting last week. We discussed possible locations for poster placement. With hugely increased fuel prices for the coming winter, we see real opportunity for recruiting homeowners who can greatly benefit from this. Tom will send further information about video training opportunities. November 10-17 will be the community build of the window dressers at the vestry in Barnet Center. The goal will be to build 200 window inserts, as part of a four-town effort. Tom and Bruce examined the windows in the Church and determined that this would not be a solution that could improve the current internal system.
8. Outreach & Communications – Jock stated that he is trying to organize a meeting of many Town organizations to address the concern that fuel oil will sell at perhaps \$6 per gallon. How can we (the Energy Committee and/or the Town and/or private individuals) address this to help people next fall? Jock suggested we might want to put a table at the transfer station to help people learn about resources to help tighten their homes. Bruce asked about the status of the Town of Peacham COVID emergency fund, and suggested this should be publicized in anticipation of high heating costs this winter. We will do a mailing – hopefully in July +consider tabling at the transfer station.

9. Review correspondence - None

10. Adjournment: 8:15 pm