

Minutes of the Peacham Energy Committee – 11-Nov-2023

Zoom Meeting hosted in Peacham, VT

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

1. Call to order – 7:08pm

2. Additions to the agenda

- Jock asked for a status report concerning the Community Solar array

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Approved unanimously (Westcott/Gill)

4. Public comment period – None noted

5. Campaigns & Events

a. Solar Array Status – Allie provided a brief report on the status of the installation. Dori engaged a third-party firm to evaluate the installation and make sure all is working well. Frank and Patrice have indicated they are satisfied with the condition of the property, and can go forward with plans for the property. All agreed that we should look for the report of this firm and make an effort to make this report available to the shareholders, and to the public.

b. Solar array covering Washington Electric Coop – There was discussion of the need to have a community generation source for those customers,

c. School Battery – There was discussion about the school, as a designated town shelter, having a battery for backup power in an emergency, especially with its solar on the roof. Jock will follow up with Sam to see if this is in the school budget.

6. Outreach & Communications

a. Energy Audit -- The Chair reported that the Heat Squad has raised its charge for doing a home heat audit, and that it is no longer feasible for us to offer a subsidy to cover this. There is general agreement that we should set aside – unless new demand emerges – further work on subsidizing home energy audits. We will continue to promote free comprehensive services like NETO energy audits and weatherization (vtneto.org).

b. Window Dressers – Tom reported on the success of the Window Dressers “build” activity, and said that 76 windows were installed in Peacham. He says that he thinks portraying the activity as much like an old-fashioned “barn raising” appeals to many families.

There was discussion of whether/how Peacham will give them another \$500 contribution for the current year; Tom will consult with Rebecca.

c. Recruitment – Jock suggested that we have a brief “ad” simply explaining who we are and asking for volunteers as new members. He suggested we send it home with the School’s weekly letter to parents. There was discussion of outreach to new people in town. There was some discussion of possible new candidates for this Committee.

7. Review correspondence - none

8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Tom/Jock) passed unanimously at 8:05 PM.

The following meeting will be **December 11**, on Zoom unless otherwise noted.