

# Minutes of the Peacham Energy Committee – 11-Mar-2024

## Zoom Meeting hosted in Peacham, VT

Those present: Chair Allie Webster, Jock Gill, Bruce Westcott, Charlie Byron - guest

1. Call to order – 7:14pm
2. Additions to the agenda -- None
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Minutes of January meeting approved unanimously (Gill/Webster)
4. Public comment period – None noted
5. Campaigns & Events

a. Solar storage and microgrids – Jock raised the topic of whether or not Peacham could be a solar island, and recounted his discussion with Sam McLeod (School Principal), regarding a possible battery strategy. The Committee discussed the need for an update to the Town LEMP (Local Emergency Management Plan) to describe the emergency services which the school intends to offer. Jock mentioned that GMP has also mentioned its interest in considering a micro-grid infrastructure that could service other public buildings/functions.

### 6. Outreach & Communications

a. There was discussion of the WEC business model, and the possibility of inviting WEC Management to come to our meeting and/or address publicly, in Peacham, their future plans.

b. There was discussion of MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program), and the \$4000 grant we received last year, of which about \$500 remains to be used for outreach/education. In addition, the Chair said that we have the entire annual budget provided by the Town, and asked for ideas for the most effective use of these funds. Jock suggested that we talk to Sam McLeod (School), to suggest that we could use these funds – possibly in coordination with the remaining grant funds and annual budget – to educate school children and their families. We could use these funds to advance the goals we have identified in our strategic plan (reduction of fossil fuels, electrification, etc.)

c. The Chair suggested that we could participate in the annual “bike to school” day in the spring, if it takes place. Charlie Byron expressed an interest in focusing on the benefits of electric lawn gear. There was discussion of the Town’s contracting for mowing services, and challenges/opportunities around going electric. Chair will speak with Sarah Lydon about having another day at the farmer’s market for people to display their electric gear. She asked Bruce to determine the current state of the contract for mowing various public spaces & appetite for e-gear.

d. Jock commenced a discussion of H.289, which will change state energy policy to require utility energy sourcing 100% from renewables by 2030. However it will eliminate the group/virtual net-metering provision that supports development of community solar projects.

### 7. Review correspondence

8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Jock/Bruce) passed unanimously at 8:08 PM.

The following meeting will be a day in April to be announced later, on Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Westcott, Temporary Acting Secretary