

Minutes of the Peacham Energy Committee – 13-May-2024

Zoom Meeting hosted in Peacham, VT

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

1. Call to order – 7:03
2. Additions to the agenda – Peacham School solar panels
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – Minutes of March meeting approved unanimously (Gill/Webster)
4. Public comment period – None noted
5. 2004 Campaigns & Events
 - a. WEC challenges & advocacy/support - discussion prep for next meeting with WEC staff -- Charlie elaborated on his draft of questions, based on recent conversations. There was wide-ranging discussion of assumptions underlying Charlie's draft questions for WEC. Charlie recognized that WEC faces lots of difficulties, but how will they address the challenges within the structure of a Coop? There was some discussion of WEC's business model with respect to the methane generation in Coventry. There was discussion of new opportunities for financial support for WEC, as their wholesale power costs increase. There was discussion of opportunities for local (private) investment, and whether the generation of distribution of power from a micro-grid of batteries and solar panels would be limited by service territories. All of the conversation centered around planning the questions to be covered in a discussion with a WEC representative at the next meeting.
 - b. Micro-grids & Resilience planning – Several people gave their understanding of the School's desire for a backup power source, GMP's willingness to propose a solution, and the need to identify some federal/state grant funding source.
 - c. E-Fair planning – We expect to be able to tag onto an existing community event. There was discussion of how to gain sponsorship, excitement, attention for electrification. We are thinking of one of the last three Thursdays in August. Allie will touch base with Market organizers.
7. Review correspondence - none noted
8. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Jock/Bruce) passed unanimously at 8:08 PM. (Byron, Breyer)

The next meeting will be on June 10, on Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Westcott, Temporary Acting Secretary