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Minutes of the Peacham Energy Committee – 10 September, 2025

Zoom Meeting hosted in Peacham, VT

Time	September 10, 2025, 7:23 PM - 08:17 PM (EDT)
Committee Members	Charlie Byron (chair), Bevin Barber-Campbell, Bruce Courtot, Bruce Westcott
Participants	

Quick recap

The meeting began with administrative matters including board membership changes and review of previous meeting minutes.

Meeting recording: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/-HKtq5p-6ldaUT2IQDeXmHoaSbwN_LncZ02KCSRG2qikiCUtz77lz9Bba5ZyRiX5.3XrdnaQTuLynb1?startTime=1757545404000

Passcode: k73ml+&V

The meeting addressed matters already before the Committee, including remaining grant funds and plans for a volunteer program to assist residents with energy-related tasks, Peacham Community Solar's interest in a battery and microgrid, organizing a legislative forum on energy matters, and a proposal to lend e-bikes to residents to support alternatives to commuting in private cars.

Summaries

Peacham Community Solar

Bruce Westcott reported on the status of efforts to evaluate a battery addition to the Peacham Community Solar array. Shareholders have expressed strong interest in understanding the benefits and costs of this. He hopes to coordinate with GMP to determine their potential to support this, including possible creation of a microgrid.

Legislative Forum

Bruce W. will be contacting Rep Greg Burt about participating in a prospective legislative forum around energy issues in Peacham and the NEK. Bruce has agreed with Jock for him to contact Sen. Scott Beck to participate as well.

Peacham Volunteer Energy Assistance

Bruce Courtot is working on a proposal for a group to coordinate assistance to Peacham residents on energy-related needs. These could be as simple as stacking firewood, or related to reductions in consumption such as insulation.

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E-Bike Lending

Bevin presented the key points of the grant application she is developing to establish a program that lends e-bikes to commuters, who pledge to use them to replace a certain amount of their commutes to work. For example the commuter might ride to a bus stop or car pool pickup point. This would both reduce use of private cars and would also make the NEK more attractive to younger people. Rural Community Transportation (RCT), which operates the regional bus service in the NEK, has expressed support for the grant application. It is due in the next 2 weeks.

Next steps

- **Energy Committee:** Collaboratively develop a list of questions for legislators regarding community solar, vehicle-to-grid, and microgrids.
- Consider the strategic fit of E-bike lending, and of transportation-related projects in general, with overall Peacham Energy Committee strategy.
- **Bevin:** Keep Committee up to date on progress of her grant application.
- **Tom:** Identify potential candidates for weatherization assistance during Window Dressers home visits.
- **Bruce Courtot:** Write up a 1-2 paragraph description of a pilot program for energy assistance for Peacham residents. Include health and safety aspects in the pilot program proposal.
- Contact Steve Isham to learn about how St. Johnsbury handles liability issues and their energy assistance program.
- Keep the committee updated on the HVAC pod development.
- Assess the NH Circuit Riders effort and how it compares to similar Vermont groups.
- **Jock:** Follow up with Green Mountain Power about the emergency shelter micro-grid project.
- Contact Green Mountain Power about the Energy Committee's interest in participating in a vehicle-to-grid pilot program when appropriate.
- Reach out to Senator Scott Beck about participating in a town meeting discussion on energy futures. Propose he meet with the Energy Committee before this, at either our 10/15 or 11/12 meetings, or at a special meeting if needed.
- Coordinate with Bruce Westcott on outreach to Representative Greg Burt and Sen. Scott Beck.
- **Bruce Westcott:** Contact Rep. Greg Burt about participation in a legislative forum in Peacham on energy matters. Propose he meet with the Energy Committee before this, at either our 10/15 or 11/12 meetings, or at a special meeting if needed.
- Keep the Committee updated on the Peacham Community Solar's activities on a battery and microgrid.