|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Hinesburg Energy Committee**Town of Hinesburg 10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461802.482.2281 | [hinesburg.org](http://hinesburg.org)  |

**Energy Committee Minutes DRAFT**

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 29th 2023 7-9 PM

**Location:** Town Hall, Lower level and Zoom

**In attendance**: In person; Chuck Reiss and Sam Lash

 On Zoom; Mike Web and Josh Leckey

**Meeting called to order 7:15 PM**

**Added to the agenda was discussion regarding logistics for HEC meetings.**

1. Sam will post agendas for future meetings, HEC should get agenda suggestions to Sam one week ahead of the monthly meeting
2. Meetings will continue to be the last Thursday of the month 7 - 9 PM at town hall and by Zoom
3. Recording of minutes will be rotated between HEC members. Chuck will be responsible for June 2023 minutes. Minutes should be posted to town hall within three days.

**Review of the town solar projects**

1. The GMP Hartland solar array is up and running an needs no further input from the Energy committee
2. The police station solar array had some questions as to how the solar credits were being applied. The town manager and the company administering the solar project, Vermont Independent Energy, are in discussion and will work out the issue.
3. The town landfill solar project is no longer offering a community solar aspect to project. The administrator did not get enough interest from the public to get the minimum enrollment for the community solar portion of the project to move forward. The energy committee had discussed possible ways for some community involvement but the new investment strategy was time sensitive and alternatives were not developed. The energy committee will send the following notice to the administrator of the landfill solar project:

“*At this point in time the Hinesburg Energy Committee does not have aspirations for a community solar involvement at the Hinesburg landfill solar project. Please keep us informed of the progress of the installation. We would also like to be sure that* the Hinesburg residents who did enroll for the project received their deposits back.”

**Energy grant opportunities**

1. Sam mentioned several opportunities for potential funding for town energy and resident’s needs:

**Energy Resilience grant**, which has three phases:

Phase 1 Monies for assessment (audits)

Phase 2 Implementation of energy work, up to $500,000 available

Phase 3 Energy educational efforts, up to $4,000 available

Sam will get additional information about this grant and the necessary application info. This grant is set to be available within the next week or so.

**Solar for All** A Department of Energy (DOE) grant targeted for lower income residents**.** This grant was just announced and details are yet to be determined.The Hinesburg Energy Committee will seek more information about this opportunity**.**

**Electric car charging grants** Vermont program to be offered early July.

Available for multi-unit housing, workplace settings and public attractions.

Over 7 million dollars may be available.

Discussion about how to collect the information about the significant grant opportunies that are presently available and ones to be made available soon.

The energy committee will compile the information about the available funds and present it to the residents of the town at a future meeting.

To start with Sam will connect with Tod Odit, the town administrator, and explore what information he may already have.

There was further discussion about the potential renovation to the town hall and how some of these funds could be used to get the town hall building to net zero energy, which is one of the goals in our town plan. Chuck has offered to speak with members of the select board about pursuing this as the renovations are being considered.

**Discussion for next month’s Agenda Thursday 7/27/23**

1. Continued review of information regarding energy grant opportunities
2. Plan for town wide outreach detailing funds available for energy work
3. Discuss the Planning Commission’s effort to update the regulations regarding housing.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM**