



## Energy Committee

Town of Hinesburg

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### Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2014

APPROVED

Attendance: Carrie Fenn, Katie Emerson, Chuck Reiss, Hannah Jackson, Ray Keller, and John Pacht

1. Formalizing our meetings and posting agenda before meetings. Listing our minutes and agenda on the town website and FPF.
  - a. Community members may wish to attend our meetings and to that end we will formalize our agendas a week ahead of time so they could be put on the website and the weekly report (and hence FPF).
2. Prep for the Net Zero Energy workshop this Saturday
  - a. 5/24/14 at 10:30am
  - b. 10am set up, chairs, projector, sandwich sign, ask about getting it on the town sign
  - c. refreshments: Hannah – grapes and orange juice, Katie – bagels and cream cheese, Carrie – water and cups
  - d. focus on keeping the presentation short and discussion long – ask questions and add differing perspectives
  - e. advertising – it is in the Record and Citizen, FPF, Ray will print poster for sandwich board
3. Review the Selectboard meeting on the Energy Code Plus requirement
  - a. Planning commission presented it to the Selectboard and they listened to the request for energy code plus. Chuck, Carrie, Ray attended. No overwhelming support, but it is new.
  - b. One concern was concern about adding cost to already unaffordable housing; upfront cost of energy star appliances
  - c. Pros: the jump from residential building code to energy code plus is a small jump and we get the support of Efficiency Vermont and 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification. There are currently errors in compliance with the building code because of lack of understanding of the current requirements
  - d. Peter Erb feels strongly that the home owner/builder exemption remains in the regulations; HEC feels the homeowners/builders would benefit most from increased education/ supervision. Considering the few number of homes this applies to, we will not contest it.
  - e. The Selectboard will discuss it among themselves and then post it as a warned meeting for the public
  - f. We committed as a committee to proactively educate people about energy code plus when they apply for building permits

4. Next steps for PACE
  - a. Still looking for active or completed projects
  - b. Reasonable loan for low income households, another arrow in the quiver
  - c. Ray will create a Q&A handout for the Selectboard about PACE, aim for a June meeting
  
5. Community Solar next steps.
  - a. an individual has come forward saying he would be willing to lease his land as a community solar site. He is not interested in the management, small array 25-50KW, GMP territory, phase one power, surrounded by short growing pine trees
  - b. two people have expressed interest in participating in community solar in Hinesburg, we would like people to be more involved in a cooperative setting where they could reap the benefits of the tax credits and cheaper power
  - c. Jeff Forward is working with the town of Richmond to put solar on the firehouse in Richmond
  - d. Would be a wonderful demonstration of community solar owned and operated by a municipality
  
6. Haystack Crossing update and potential letter to the DRB
  - a. Invited committees to a private meeting, looking to our committee because of the maximum density bonus
  - b. Black Rock came back with an alternative that includes a solar array behind the ball fields
  - c. Affordable housing concerns
  - d. Ask Li Ling to run a comparison of a new house built to residential building code and a net zero home and cost to live month to month
  - e. Green building requirements require complete building plans which Black Rock has not completed at this point
  
7. HEC Logo
  
8. Button Up Vermont – weatherization day in November

Action Items:

Chuck form agendas a week before, solicit feedback from committee members and publicize

Chuck - Logo

Katie and Hannah – refreshments for Saturday

Ray – Sandwich board poster, call Renee about town board

Ray will create a Q&A handout for the Selectboard about PACE

Carrie will look for a copy of the energy audit of the town hall and more information about Button Up Vermont