



Energy Committee

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

Meeting Minutes - February 16, 2016

- Approved 3/15/16 -

Attendance: Richard Watts, Chuck Reiss, Carrie Fenn, Richard Hopwood

Absent (and abstaining): John Pacht, Nikki Kuhn

Meeting called to order 7:08 p.m.

- 1. Approval of January 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes** -- with amendments.
- 2. Discussion of Solar Screening Regulations:** Committee agrees to support Planning Commission siting language and continue to work with the PC to improve those. Chuck and Dick to continue to look for best practices to be incorporated from other towns, solar siting experts and landscape planners among others.
- 3. Magee Hill Solar PV.** The Committee would like to see this project go forward. The Committee plans to work with the developer and the neighbors to make the project the best possible. This might include hosting a “charrette” with visuals of what the project will look like. The Committee approved the following resolution:

The Town of Hinesburg Energy Committee supports the development of the Magee Hill Solar Project as long as it is developed in a thoughtful manner with due diligence paid to the concerns of the Project’s neighbors. The committee commits ourselves to working with the developer and the neighbors to ensure the project is developed to the highest possible standards.

- 4. Proactive Role for Solar Placement in Hinesburg.** Richard to follow up with Alex and others to see if the town could take a proactive role in choosing the best sites in town for solar development going forward.
- 5. Rutland Town Resolution on Energy Siting and Local Decision-Making.** The Committee believes there should be a process for towns to have a meaningful role in decision-making around local energy siting. The committee is committed to working with town and state officials, legislators,

developers, citizens and others in developing substantive processes that move renewable energy forward while taking into account local concerns. The committee is not endorsing the resolution from the Town of Rutland on this issue at this time.

6. **Gilman Road Community Solar.** Chuck to continue to work with the proposed project landowners and to invite the lawyer in from Primmer & Piper expert in these community solar agreements.
7. **Vermont Gas Pipeline Through Geprags Park.** The committee expressed concern with the proposal to bury a natural gas pipeline in the park and approved the following resolution:

The Town of Hinesburg Energy Committee opposes granting an easement to Vermont Gas Systems for a gas pipeline to run through Geprags Park. The proposed line violates the clearly stated goals of the Geprags family when they donated the land to the Town for recreation, education and preservation. The Committee further believes the pipeline is at odds with state and town goals to move to 90% renewable energy by 2050.

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Watts