



## Energy Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2016

*- Draft -*

**Members Present:** Chuck Reiss, Carrie Fenn, Richard Hopwood, Richard Watts

HEC Meeting 5/17/16

1. Additions to the agenda, comments from the public.
2. Review the minutes from May 3rd
3. Review the energy section of the town plan re-write update from Alex.
4. New state statute regarding public input for solar and wind sites (S230)
5. Review potential preferred sites for solar in Hinesburg.
6. Review VEC solar field proposal for Magee Hill road.
7. Update on South Wind solar field.
8. Solar net metering update
9. Present proposal for Triple L Mobile Home Park (options other than gas)

Meeting Opened @ 7:30

Non-member present: Brian Thibault / neighbor from Magee Hill

**#1 - Agenda additions: #9 above**

**#2 - Minutes from previous meeting approved as amended.**

**#6 - Discussion for Magee Hill moved to beginning of agenda**

Brian commenting about new Encore Plan (speaking for the neighborhood)

Proposed berm w/tress is not a natural fit to the area. Currently the natural slope is to the north. Berm is near road, behind the existing roadside trees, is linear and not natural looking. Suggestion is to move the current location of the access road back from the Magee Hill Road and reshape the berm between access and Magee Hill Road. Proposal is to still have the layout of solar field with panels 200' back from Magee Hill Road. Proposal is to move panels around to accomplish this design. Take panels from roadside, currently less than 200', and re-locate to the sides of the solar array in some fashion. Encore stated at the Selectboard meeting that they needed to hit .12 cents/kw to make project feasible. Relocate vs. remove is the proposed suggestion. Committee stated that these types of proposed changes could be incorporated into the Town Plan. S230 is moving this way which could lay the ground work for future project design proposals in Hinesburg. Committee proposed to Brian that we make a counter proposal to Encore based on the sketch presented to the Magee Hill neighbor's. In the new sketch include new location for natural segmented berms, a 200' setback design showing relocated panels and new access road layout.

Brian will redo the proposed drawing presented to the committee with changes, forward to Chuck and Chuck will talk directly to his contacts at Encore about the newest proposed drawing.

### **#3 - Review the energy section of the town plan re-write update from Alex**

Overview of Town Plan Chapter 8:

8.3.2 – Change wording from “suitable” to “preferred” suggested. Is suitable enough? Present to the Planning Commission a process to find preferred sites and buildings.

8.4.5 – Change wording were it talks about new organizations were it currently states “including but limited to”. Chuck will rewrite and present to Planning Committee.

Energy Sources:

Electricity Current & Future

Suggest adding “solar sites / proposed” at end of first paragraph.

Natural Gas Section

Add a % of cleaner than oil. Carrie will research this % as an action.

Fuel Oil Section

Alex wants this included. Efficiency VT is only service provider mentioned. Include other possibilities for contacts for people to connect with for efficiency information.

Renewables Section

Propose inserting an appendix for actual sites we will be proposing.

Residential Section – OK

Transportation Section

Richard W. will send some recommendations to Chuck.

Public Education Section – Removed. Why??

### **#4 - New state statue regarding public input for solar and wind sites (S230)**

Senate & House Passed

Once it is law it will be added to Town Plan

Town will submit to Regional Planning Commission

Then goes to PSB and if approved the town gets “substantial deference”

### **#5 - Review potential preferred sites for solar in Hinesburg**

Deferred this discussion to next meeting

### **#7 - Update on South Wind solar field**

Richard H will have site visit with coworker to discuss layout of infrastructure

Fencing discussion continues with more information to be gathered for next meeting

### **#8 - Solar net metering update**

Chuck talked to GMP about Doc. 8652. Proposed 7.5 M for systems under 150kw. The process can be reviewed on line at GMP site for details. Feedback from the meetings in Montpelier was positive. The

people attending were from young to old, solar owners to working in the industry. Statements were generally we need to continue to move forward to promote solar and make the net metering process painless and viable to VT residence.

### **#9 - Present proposal for Triple L Mobile Home Park (options other than gas)**

VT Gas meeting was last night. Triple L trailer park will be able to hook-up to gas with incentives to do this.

Committee proposes that we come up with alternatives to gas for the park (solar, heat pumps). Present this proposal to the homeowners and options available for power and efficiency upgrades.

Neighborhood Works & Efficiency VT for options and upgrades (ex: insulation, upgrade windows and door etc.)

Agenda for June 21 Meeting:

- 1- Look at maps for preferred sites
- 2- Magee Hill Update
- 3- Southwind Update
- 4- Town Plan Update – Energy Sections

Meeting Adjourned: 9:45 p.m.