

**Hyde Park Energy Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 24, 2021 Meeting**

opened at 3:00pm via Zoom

**Present:**

Committee Members: Elisa Clancy, Meg Taylor (no quorum, no votes)

Guests: Carol Robertson, Linda Patterson

**Hyde Park Electric Lack of Incentive Programs**

Carol Robertson, General Manager of Hyde Park Electric was invited to attend our committee meeting to explain why the “Mow Electric” incentive program that is currently being offered by all of the other electric utilities in Vermont, are not being offered by Hyde Park Electric (HPE). Robertson explained that HPE currently meet the state’s criteria for Tier 2 and 3 compliance with the Hyde Park Solar, Waterhouse Project and that a Tier 3 plan would be developed in future years. She also explained that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) requires approval of Tier 3 incentive programs. Hyde Park Electric committed to their ratepayers to hold public hearings for input by their ratepayers prior to developing a Tier 3 Plan. Robertson said that incentives will be considered during future years planning processes and the committee would be invited to provide input. She said that she believed that utility plans are reviewed by the PUC in October 2021.

**Hyde Park Electric is Objecting to New Net-Metering at the DPS**

Carol Robertson stated that Hyde Park Electric decided to object to new net-metering applications in 2021 due to the cumulative impact of net-metering on the distribution system. She referred to a recent meeting between the Department of Public Service and Control Point, HPE's engineering consultants, to review the current situation. She said Alex Wing and Bill Jordan of the Dept. of Public Service attended the meeting and their decision had not been made. Clancy asked Robertson to provide the committee with a copy of the Control Point Engineering report, and she said she didn’t have it. She stated that although she mentioned a report, it was a meeting between engineers to review analysis and no report was produced. Clancy asked to follow up on the topic of the disallowance of new net metering customer with HPE in the near future, this will be on the agenda for the June HPEC committee meeting.

**Raise the Blade Campaign**

Linda Patterson joined us from Lawn to Lake, [lawntolake.org](http://lawntolake.org), to discuss HEPC’s involvement with the campaign to improve soil health by mowing grass at 3” high. Healthy soils reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality in the watershed. Linda is working with Meg Taylor on an outreach campaign to raise awareness in town of the benefits of raising the blade. Arrangements were made to contact Hyde Park mowing contractors and local area lawn maintenance, repair and sales of lawn equipment.