

Hyde Park Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2021

Meeting opened at 3:00pm via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/98073261104>

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Present:

Elisa Clancy, Denise Greene, Meg Taylor

Vote:

June 2021 meeting minutes approved as written.

Agenda items:

3:05p – Net Metering & Hyde Park Electric (follow up item from June)

- This should stay on our radar.
- Follow up: are there any funding options available?

3:10p – Comprehensive Energy Plan Virtual Event on October 4

Event 6-7:30pm - Denise plans to attend and wants to ask about options for recycling solar panels. E.g. a company in Phoenix is doing this.

- Hosting forums throughout the state through November.
- **Action item:** Review notes from the forum that occurred recently in Elmore.

Electric school busses are a discussion topic of interest. Elisa mentioned that we don't have electric bus mechanics, charging, other infrastructure, etc. Low ridership is also a concern. Ideas:

- Options to sign up for ridership and base size of bus on ridership.
- Less ridership due to Covid?

3:20p – Step-up to Button-up Vermont

Denise received a note from Becca White at Efficiency VT - they don't have their website up yet but expect to by next week.

- Several committees are doing tabling events on October 23rd at local hardware stores. Becca can help us promote it and write an article/press release plus letter to the editor.
- **Action item:** Denise to follow up with the committee via Slack regarding next steps.

Elisa mentioned appliance rebate - free appliances for those that are income qualified.

- Family of 4 household income limit is \$63,200, based on availability
- <https://www.encyvermont.com/rebates/list/free-products-and-appliances-for-income-qualified-vermonters>

- **Action item:** Elisa to follow up with Efficiency Vermont to determine if funding is still available.
- Weatherization Wednesdays in October.
- **Voted** unanimously to promote the income-qualified residential appliance rebate (assuming funding is available, see above). Also **voted** unanimously to promote Button Up on social media platforms.
- Effort as a committee to increase Facebook followers.
- **Action item:** Denise to follow up with Roland at WLVB about promotion via radio interview.

3:35p – Lawn Alternatives Follow Up

- Meg and Elisa recapped for Denise - radio interview with Roland.
 - Reminder to request recording next time.
- Lawn Alternatives will continue again next year, beginning in the spring. We have plenty of signs to reuse.
- **Action item:** Meg to send thank you to Linda.

3:45p – Other business

- From Elisa: Planning commission currently going through town zoning ordinances and hoping for input by this fall, before implementing changes this December.
 - They do not plan on revisiting zoning ordinances for a long time. So, now is the time to make a suggestion.
 - For discussion: option to make renewable energy technologies/sources exempt? Also to share this topic at the Comprehensive Energy Plan forum. E.g. Freedom to produce your own power for self-use.
 - **Action item:** Elisa to call VECAN to find out if a similar ordinance exemption for residential clean energy projects exists elsewhere.
 - October 11th Planning Commission meeting to include review of comments.
- From Denise: Attending Village Trustee Meeting October 13th to discuss new meadow installation at Elsa French property for next year.
 - Exploring Village improvement committee funding.
 - Idea - educational opportunity to take a walking field trip from the Elementary School.

Meeting adjourned at 4:03pm. Notes respectfully submitted by Meg Taylor, Secretary.