

## **Ryegate Energy Committee Unapproved Notes - October 2, 2023**

**In attendance:** Co-Chairs Kate Davies/Michael McLellan, Alice Allen PC/Z by zoom, Publicity Officer Donna Waelter, Secretary Carl Bayer, Gail Brown by zoom, Peter Sinclair

At 7:03 Michael called the meeting to order. The minutes were read and moved by Kate, seconded by Donna and approved.

**Mission Statement** - Four previous drafts were presented by Kate. Discussion centered on how much should be in a Mission Statement. Short and sweet in D was favored by 6 yes votes and one abstention. Discussion about where Option B's description of the escalating impact of climate change belonged, was discussed. Group seemed to feel it should be put before the community, PC/Z, perhaps in the Report to the Town Meeting.

**Ryegate Donation to Window Dressers** - Michael documented \$1100 in no pay inserts last year. We decided to recommend a \$1000 donation to the Budget Committee for next year. Michael agreed to provide an updated accurate accounting of the no pay inserts for the meeting.

**Energy Committee Budget** - Discussion on how that budget was used. Carl felt it was for information and education materials as well as cost of energy efficiency upgrades. Using the Historical Society experience Peter felt there were two different budgets for those two items. We decided to resolve this issue at the Select Board meeting next Monday.

**Old Business - Window Dressers** - Michael reported about 60% of volunteer slots filled. The coordinating group for the 4 towns continues to meet on the first Wednesday of the month. We decided to work on getting more volunteer shifts filled this month. Gail agreed to check with the Grange and Donna and Carl to continue social media outreach.

**Trails** - Michael and Carl attended the meeting with the four town representatives, bikers and Mike Thomas to agree on the primary Wells River to Danville trail. Changes in the map were proposed. In Ryegate/Barnet instead of going up School House Road to continue to Lake Harvey. The Fondo involved 300 riders with a stop at Ryegate Corner. We discussed the importance of the new Town Plan emphasizing non motorized recreation.

**Solarbration and Blue Mountain Community Solar** - Peter, Michael and Carl attended a well organized event at the Miller Farm in South Peacham. BMCS had a table, and only got two folks on the mailing list. We are going to do a campaign for more subscribers for a short time. We are outreaching to NVDA and Window Dressers for help, and Donna and Carl will continue with local media. We hope to turn the project over to Green Mountain Community Solar with 27 prospective subscribers.

**Regional Energy Committee** - Michael reported on the last meeting which was very data and information driven, as most are. Surveying the community, as they did at the Soarbration, is one of the functions promoted by NVDA. Michael won a battery operated leaf blower for his participation. Sharing information and projects is the focus.

**BMU, GMP and a Cooling Station** - Gail has started to collect information. She has the report on the use of BMU as a shelter, and we know that the Select Board represents Ryegate. Donna is meeting with Emily Knisley and will cover the climate change curriculum issue and help Gail identify who to talk to at the school. Gail will proceed from there. Carl reported he had not heard back from GMP about our request for a plan.

**Public Comment** - Carl reported that Patrick Murphy from AOT is not getting a response from Global Partners about charging stations. He also reported that he and Peter attended a full house presentation by Suzanne Simard at the St. Jay Middle School on forest ecology and climate change.

**Respectfully submitted, Carl**

**Next Ryegate Energy Committee Meeting November 6, 2023**