

Ryegate Energy Committee Meeting Notes from 9-5-23

In attendance; Kate Davies and Michael McLellan, co-chairs, Donna Waelter , Publicity Officer, Carl Bayer, Sec'y; Alice Allen PC/Z on zoom, Gail Brown; Others David Punt, Regina Hazel

This was a Special Meeting due to the change from the regular Modnday date of 9-4-23. The meeting was called at 7:05 and the **Minutes of 8-7-23** were moved for approval by Gail, seconded by Alice and approved.

GMP Resiliency Programs - We had email communication from Madeline Murray-Classen to review. There was discussion about the 2 town/1 village **emergency shelter at BMU** or some other facility in the area becoming a respite from the heat as a cooling station, the need to upgrade air conditioning and battery storage. There was discussion about **EV charging stations** since the Selectboard was now open to one at South Ryegate Park and Ride. The group still prefers a level 3 charging station at P/H which is now being negotiated by AOT's Patrick Murphy at the request of the Committee and Senator Kitchell. Dave Punt asked for clarification about the **Geothermal Project at the Corners**, now part of the Select Board's application to the Municipal Energy Resiliency Program, which includes an assessment for viability and the potential for further funding beyond what the town, GMP and a small contribution have garnered so far. We decided to find out more about our shelter program and its needs. Gail will seek out the key people from Ryegate, Groton, Wells River and the school involved in the project and report back. Carl agreed to let GMP know we would like to know what they would recommend to Ryegate.

Mission Statement - The old one is out. Carl provided a draft with some input from Regina and Peter. Kate provided another one with bullets. We discussed how close our Mission Statement had to be with the Town Plan, either the 2018 or next one. There were different opinions expressed. We did agree that biomass for power generation was not something we supported for future development. Renewable energy and cutting GHG emissions was supported. Kate will redraft her draft, using some of the suggestions, send it out for comments, and potential changes, so we could vote on it at our October Meeting.

Updates - Michael informed us of the next **Regional Meeting of the Energy Committees** on Sept. 20 at Noon and will send out the link. Michael also updated **Window Dressers**, and the last 4 town administrative meeting on Wednesday at 7:30. Michael has measured 100 windows involving providing about \$1100 non pay inserts. These costs are covered by Ryegate's \$500 donation, Peacham's donation, a grant that Danville secured, individual donations and Window Dressers. Ryegate will have generated about 1/3 of the inserts. Volunteer hours are covered 38% so far, so Michael is making further outreach. Last year we had about 140 volunteers.

Trails - Carl and Michael met with Mike Thomas, Board President of the Cross Vermont Trail. The bike maps throughout the NEK are extensive and published, but Mike will have a meeting with representatives of the 4 towns from Wells River to Danville and bicycle enthusiasts to agree on the major 302 to rte 2 corridor, which is their priority. There will be spurs off that like Morrison/Jewett, which the Select Board is paying more attention to and for the Meader Trail, Mike said he would discuss ways to have a trail from Hall Road to the uncontested part of Meader Road acceptable to the abutting land owners.

Publicity - Donna suggested we not emphasize the monthly newsletter but short blurbs in social media. At this time we should focus on getting volunteers for Window Dresser's build in November.

BMCS - Michael reported the Sept. 24 event marking the start of the Peacham Community Solar Project. We will have a table there as well as other outreach to try to recruit subscribers. This will be a short term effort to help GMCS get off the ground.

Alice reported that a **fundraiser for flood victims** at BMU, Sept 17 at 1PM. The movie Farm Boy is the attraction

Reggie filled us in on some suggestions for **running the meeting**, like how Public Comments should be handled, usually at the end of the meeting.

Carl made a motion to **adjourn**, seconded by Gail and approved by the members.

Next Meeting, Monday October 2 at the Town Office with zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Carl