

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 10, 2018
6:30-8:00 PM, Rye Public Library

Present: Danna Truslow, Howard Kalet, Michael Joyce, Tom Pfau

Approved December 5 meeting minutes were

Planning for 2018 activities – Danna ran discussion of proposed 2018 activities. The members suggested a number of activities that Danna compiled and distributed in electronic form for further discussion and a vote at the next meeting.

Offshore wind resolution letter – The Board of Selectmen approved a letter to the Governor requesting participation in a study of offshore wind. Danna emailed a request for a final copy of the letter which has since been forwarded to all members.

Municipal building energy use reports – Draft versions of municipal energy reports comparing five years of energy use were presented and discussed. It was agreed that the five-year period beginning January 2013 ending December 2017 would be in the final reports. Tom agreed to produce the final reports when the electric and fuel reports through December 31 are received.

Residential energy survey – There was a discussion of the questions to be included in a residential energy survey and the timing. It was agreed that the purpose of the survey is to raise awareness among Rye residents of energy conservation and efficiency efforts. The option of providing the survey on-line through SurveyMonkey vs Google Forms was discussed. It was suggested that trying to provide the survey to town residents electronically just prior to the February 3 Deliberative Session would be our goal. A link to the survey will be emailed to REC and town email lists, as well as posted on the REC webpage. It was also suggested there be a hand-out provided to Deliberative Session and Town Meeting attendees asking them to participate in the on-line survey. Tom agreed to update the survey and distribute it to the members for further review.

Town Master Plan Energy Chapter update – There was a discussion of the need to update the Energy Chapter of the Town Master Plan. Danna agreed to check with the appropriate group to confirm they would be looking for an update.

Energize 360 social fund – An email from the Energize 360 organizers about the “social fund” was discussed. The email said participating E360 towns that had fewer than 10 solar installations would not receive an equal number of free panels but instead that number would be combined with the panels from other towns and contributed to a worthy charitable group. Since Rye had only eight E360 installations these panels would not be given to the town but instead contributed to a joint social fund. This was contrary to what we had understood at the beginning of the project. It was suggested that perhaps these eight panels could be contributed to a solar project at the Rye middle school and perhaps added to a municipal solar project if one is undertaken.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00. The next meeting will be Tues, February 6, 2018, 6:30-8:00 PM.