

Rye Energy Committee
Tuesday, October 3, 2017
6:30-8:00 Rye Public Library

Present: Susan Anderson, Howard Kalet, Tom Pfau, Danna Truslow

Also Present: Michael Joyce

Approved September 5, 2017 minutes

Michael Joyce is a new resident in Rye who read about the Energy Committee and the Recycling Committee in the Rye Town News and plans to attend both committee meetings, possibly choosing to join one.

Solar at Major Consuming Locations - There are presently no state funds for any additional rebates/refunds prior to the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2018. Any applications made before July 1 this year will be honored. The public Utilities Commission is expected to have more details about this around the end of October. It is expected that any future program will be less advantageous. Note that the Federal 30% tax credit is still available.

Energize 360 - The program presentations are finished. Residents who signed a contract are moving forward with their projects and may still be eligible for some rebates, if they applied prior to the July 1 cutoff. Again, the 30% Federal tax credit is still available.

While talking about solar panels, geothermal heating and solar hot water, we wondered if there is a way to find out how many residents in Rye have any one or more of these sustainable energy systems.

Budget Report - Howard will be representing the Energy Committee at the Budget Hearings. For the most part, our money is spent on visual presentations (posters, brochures, announcements for programs and hand-outs). We hope to have a poster for the Budget Hearing presentation.

Offshore Wind Resolution - One of the goals of the Offshore Wind Presentation is to have each town make a resolution saying that they support looking further into Offshore Wind Energy. We need to research what towns have sent their completed resolutions to Gov. Sununu. We will show the draft we have to Mike Magnant to get his input before presenting it to the Selectmen. Tom and Howard will meet with him after touching base with Doug Boden, who gave the presentation in Rye.

Solar at RJH - After seeing An Inconvenient Sequel at the Music Hall, followed by a discussion by Revision Energy, a Rye junior high student, Haley Brown asked about using solar energy for the 200 Chrome books at RJH. Phil Coupe, one of the co-founders of Revision Energy said if RJH students will do the math to calculate how many solar panels would be needed to charge the Chromebooks, Revision would provide the solar panels free of charge. The Energy Committee plans to invite Haley to become a student member of the committee.

Research - The REC would like to find out the range of energy used by a 2500 sq. ft., 3 bedroom house in Rye and to publish this information on our website. We know, anecdotally, that it is a significant range and it would be interesting to know what the low usage and high usage homes are doing differently. We have also heard that the local power companies do send neighborhood energy newsletters out selectively, but it is not clear how the decision is made of who receives one of these newsletters.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45. The next Energy Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 6:30-8:00 PM soa