

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 10, 2019
6:30 – 8:00 PM, Rye Public Library

Attending: Danna Truslow, Howard Kalet, Tom Pfau

The August meeting minutes were approved

Solar RFP – The RFP was presented to the Board of Selectman meeting on Aug 12. They asked that a Reservation of Rights paragraph be added which was done. The RFP was posted on the town website on Aug 14 and emailed to a list of solar companies. A walk of the potential solar sites was held on Sep 6 that four solar companies attended. An RFP scoring sheet from the Energize 360 campaign was discussed. Danna agreed to update it with points taken the RFP. RFP responses are due by Oct 1. It suggested that we aim to interview qualified respondents on Thu Oct 24, vote for a final candidate at the Nov meeting and then present our conclusions at the second Nov BOS meeting.

Lighting upgrade project – The lighting upgrade at the Rye elementary and junior high is scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. The work will be done after hours. The Library Board will consider the lighting upgrade proposal at its next on Sep 17. If they approve it, the paperwork for upgrading the library, public safety building and transfer station will be submitted to Eversource for the work to be scheduled.

Master Plan Energy Chapter - Tom contacted Chris Skoglund at the NH DES and Emily Bolger of the EPA asking for advice about updating our Energy Chapter. Chris responded with suggestions of things to change and remove. He also included a draft of the State greenhouse gas emissions goals. Emily said she would ask whether anyone at EPA how best to use Portfolio Manager to monitor municipal energy progress.

Fuel Oil and Biofuel – Howard and Tom talked about what they'd learned about fuel oil and biofuel. NH adopted a requirement this year that all fuel oil be ultra-low sulfur (ULSO) which has less than 15 ppm sulfur. Apparently, the fuel industry has transitioned to the lower sulfur fuel years ago which was driven by diesel fuel standards. There are a few fuel oil suppliers that deliver a 80/20 blend (B20) of fuel oil and biodiesel made from soy bean oil. There is research showing this blend is even cleaner burning than ULSO. However oil burner manufacturers do not yet recommend its use due to potential equipment problems. One commercial customer they spoke to said he uses B20 without any problems. As the Town and most residents use fuel oil for heating, it may be worth watching its acceptance by manufacturers and consumers.

The next meeting will be held Thu, Oct 3 at 6:30.