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Meeting called by: Dorian Yates  
Type of meeting: SECC monthly meeting

Facilitator: Dorian Yates  
Note taker: Dorian Yates

Attendees: Dorian Yates, Susan Hodges, Matt Christie, David Lutz, and Doc Bagley

Next Meeting: July 11, 2023, 7 pm via ZOOM

Minutes

New ACTION ITEMS from this meeting:

**ACTION ITEM:** Dorian will send Susan H the image for the NetZero campaign so Susan can post this on the Strafford Facebook page.

**ACTION ITEM:** One of us (?) will update the signage by the deli at Coburns' explaining the plastic bag collection there.

**ACTION ITEM:** July 4th table and events: Dorian will speak with PTA about placement for our table; David will line up e-bike and EV parade folks, David will develop community solar and individual solar information for the table.

**ACTION ITEM:** Matt will be in touch with Eric Reimanis about working with the Newton School on an energy- and climate-related curriculum; Dorian will email school board chair Sarah Root saying the SECC can offer advice and information for energy-efficiency planning.

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AGENDA for this meeting:

1. Approve minutes from previous (May) meeting. Approved.
2. Review and update on Action Items from previous meeting: Action items from last meeting were all accomplished, except the project to help the school develop curriculum on energy and climate, which is a long term project.
3. Net-Zero Shopping project: Dorian and Susan H reported a successful morning sitting at Coburns' with information about plastics reduction and the NetZero campaign.  
The Net Zero discussion segued into the Trex recycled-plastic bench discussion. Matt spoke with Michael Scanlan to clarify the plastic stream. There are two plastic-bag collection sites (for non-crinkly plastic bags) in Strafford. One is at the recycling center, and that goes to Hannaford's for a financial credit that

benefits the recycling center. The second site is at Coburns' and is managed by the Lions Club. It was agreed that we should help publicize these two sites and raise awareness in the town. We also need to discuss with the Lions Club and Michael Scanlan whether we can advertise the plastic-recycling options, and whether we can improve the sign for plastic collection at the store.

**4. Discussion about July 1st (Independence Day) table and information.** **Dorian** will speak with PTA about placement for our table; **David** will line up e-bike and EV parade folks, **David** will develop community solar and individual solar information for the table.

#### 5. Sub-committee reports:

\* **Matt** reported on the Newton School energy assessment. This is an ongoing project to address a longterm situation. The big picture is big—requiring lots of money and a town vote on a school bond for large energy upgrades. In the shorter, smaller term, the question remains about how to make best use of “extra” energy in a beneficial way (heat pumps in the library for instance, etc.) Our major goal is to replace the fossil-fuel heating system and reduce the school’s energy/carbon footprint overall. Jeff Groat, the Intramunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC), is also involved in this effort.

\* **Matt** also gave an update on the Residential Building Standards (RBES) and new legislation. Rebecca Holcombe is going to recommend Matt for one of the seats on the state advisory committee formed by the legislature.

\* **Doc** reported that the Alger Brook Community solar project is about to go live! Congratulations and thanks to all who worked so hard on that project.

\* **David** reported that there are many more EVs in town.

\* Legislature Report from **Susan Hodges**: The session is now over. 350VT is working to learn from this past session and plan ahead. You can follow this process at: <https://www.350vermont.org/>.

Susan also reported that Zach Porter of the organization Standing Trees has made the following announcement:

“H126 just became law without the governor’s signature, but it has the same effect as if he had signed.

“H126 isn’t perfect, but it sets a goal for the state to protect 30% of its land area by 2030 and 50% by 2050, including the creation of ‘ecological reserve areas to protect highest priority natural communities and maintain or restore old forests.’ The legislation creates incentives for a new category of land management on state lands, and for investment of more public dollars in wildland protections.

“This is a MAJOR victory and it’s yet another sign that WE ARE WINNING. Vermont is now the first state in the nation with goals to protect 30x30 and 50x50.”

Discussion followed about “greenwashing,” and upcoming BALE presentations on the importance of clarity and transparency, understanding that we are working in an imperfect world.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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