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## Rockingham Energy Committee

**Tuesday April 23, 2024 7:00-8:30 PM**

### Minutes

Present Peter Bergstrom, Guy Payne, Kelley Tully

Absent None

Guests Stuart Brown

Called to order at 7:01 PM

Approved minutes of March meeting—moved Guy, second Kelley, passed

1. Alteration to the Agenda, Guest Introductions—none

### 2. "Home Energy Forum" series

Peter and Guy described the last presentation on weatherization which went well, good questions, good exchange, and good content. Peter will ask FACT-TV for a link to the video when it's ready, and share it.

--Cold climate heat pumps (Cota & Cota, Harold Elliott, and a speaker from Eff. VT, in person or on ZOOM.) Peter is waiting for available dates from Anne Dempsey. Kelley will ask Harold when he is available, and ask the library if they have an OWL for ZOOM.

FUTURE forums—

--Types of energy audits, what you can learn from them

--Attic & basement issues with air sealing, insulation, moisture (Guy recommend some folks?)

--When & how to replace windows to minimize payback time

--Modern wood heat options (wood pellet furnaces & boilers, etc.)

--Low-income assistance options

--Heating system resilience during power failures--wood & propane stoves that don't need electricity, battery backup (but it won't run heat pumps), generators, Preventing frozen pipes in crawl spaces & other unheated areas

### 3. Window Dressers

Still waiting to hear if WD staff can replicate the erratic readings I got from our laser tool. The new one that Allison sent has much more precise readings than the old one.

Peter wrote & sent report for our 2023 Grow Grant, and finished writing & submitted proposal for 2024, which was due 3/19.

We can start measuring customers soon, as long as they are willing to pay this far in advance, if not getting the special rate. **We have 12 signed up so far, which is a great start (almost half of what we need).** Peter will ask Jeff if he can help him measure soon.

White tape jig--Stu said he's searching for someone who can fabricate a prototype out of resin, probably in two pieces, with a separate piece that sticks down to hold the spool of tape. We need a machine shop that has a CNC machine. Guy asked if the River Valley Technical Center might be able to fabricate the prototype; Stu said he thought they could. Guy knows the machinist on the faculty (Christopher Gray) and will talk to him about it.

4. **Landlord outreach** -- Guy will follow up, working with Jeff & John Dunbar. He hopes to make progress before our next meeting.
5. **Town Energy Plan**—Guy working on it. Meeting on April 30 at 5 PM, Lower Theater in Bellows Falls, will go over the whole town plan and seek feedback. The whole plan is on the town website, which includes the energy chapter. LINK (followed at 6 PM by Tri-Board meeting that includes the fire department study.)
6. **Announcements, etc.**—

VECAN conference Sat. June 1, 9-2 at the VT Law & Graduate School in Randolph. Guy and Peter are both busy that day. Register here:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/6gEJmk52RkyLxONvmQGSiw2>

Guy's employer, SEON, applied for a federal earmark grant for 2025 to build 50 bathroom pods in Brattleboro that will both save time and reduce costs during construction of affordable housing. The pods will be lowered into the building through the roof with a crane.

Stu asked for advice about how to encourage local citizens to take action on climate change without conflicting with what the Energy Committee is doing. Peter said that what we can do as the REC is limited to providing education, and advising the town on energy issues. Guy said we could do more in Rockingham about regenerative agriculture and carbon sequestration. Stu knows Mike Ghia and will talk to him as well.

Next REC meeting—**Tuesday 5/14/24, 7:00 PM**

**Adjourned at 8:00 PM, moved by Kelley.**

Minutes by Peter Bergstrom, Chair, 4-25-24.