

Winhall Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 6, 2024

Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Attendees:

- * Mike Cole
- * Andrea Ameden
- * Ward Kane
- * Joe Frigo, Mountain School at Winhall (Guest)

Agenda

1. Introduction of New Technology for Meeting Transcription
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
3. New Business: Trout Release Event and Energy Tour
4. Summary of May 4th Greenup Day Tabletop
5. Discussion on Feasibility of Temporary Solar Panels and Batteries at Bondville Fairgrounds
6. MERP Audits and Required Documentation
7. Mini Grant Opportunity and Discussion
8. New projects

Meeting Notes

1. Introduction of New Technology for Meeting Transcription

- * Mike introduced a new AI-based transcription tool for meetings.
- * The tool transcribes dialogue and produces summaries and action items.
- * All attendees agreed to use the tool.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- * April 1st meeting minutes were not reviewed by all members.
- * Decision to pass over the approval of the minutes.

3. New Business: Trout Release Event and Energy Tour

- * Joe introduced himself and discussed the trout release event on the May 31st and a potential energy tour.
- * Discussion on the educational benefits and logistics of the trout release event.
- * Andrea offered to help with macroinvertebrate sampling equipment.
- * Mike suggested using the town hall for the energy tour due to its heating system issues.
- * Joe agreed to follow up via email with more details.

4. Summary of May 4th Greenup Day Tabletop

- * Mike reported a successful event with around 50-60 attendees at the noontime barbecue.
- * Several people visited the energy committee's table and learned about the initiatives.

5. Discussion on Feasibility of Temporary Solar Panels and Batteries at Bondville Fairgrounds

- * Andrea suggested involving Beth Grant and the fair committee.
- * Mike reported speaking with Beth, and that space constraints during fair days make it impractical to bring in solar panels.

- * Discussion on the possibility of using temporary solar panels for the summer concert series.
- * Andrea will contact solar companies to explore potential partnerships.

6. MERP Audits and Required Documentation

- * Mike reported that the state is requiring 79 documents per building for MERP Level 2 energy audits.
- * Discussion on the feasibility of pursuing these audits given the documentation requirements.
- * Consideration of using town funds for audits and improvements instead.
- * Ward suggested purchasing thermal imaging equipment for in-house audits.

7. MERP Mini Grant Opportunity and Discussion

- * Discussion on whether to apply for MERP mini grants given overwhelming amount of documentation required for Level 2 audits.
- * Consensus that pursuing the MERP mini grants may not be appropriate unless the Town pursues either the Level 1 or Level 2 energy audit.
- * Decision to let other committee members weigh in before making a final decision.

8. New Projects

- * Discussion that the energy committee needs to identify new projects and initiatives.

Action Items

- * Joe to follow up via email with more details about the trout release event and energy tour.
- * Andrea to contact solar companies about potential partnerships for temporary solar panels.
- * Committee to consider purchasing thermal imaging equipment for in-house audits.

* Committee members to decide on pursuing mini grants and potentially schedule an additional meeting.

* Committee members should each bring one new idea/project/initiative to the next meeting for discussion.

Next Meeting

* Date: June 3, 2024

* Time: 6:30 PM

Adjournment

* Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Prepared by: Mike Cole

Date: May 8, 2024