

Rye Energy Committee  
Tuesday, June 2, 2015  
6:30-8 PM  
Rye Public Library

Present: Michele Sopher, Susan Anderson, Howard Kalet

Absent: Lucy Neiman, Danna Truslow

Also present: Don Cavallaro, students from Mr. Water's Social Studies class: Trinity Zola, Grace McCann, Gavin Blonda, Eric Zhang, Sarah Lindsay, Tim Lindsay (Sarah's father).

Approved May 5, 2015 Minutes

We began the meeting by talking with the student's from Mr. Water's class about why they chose to attend the REC Meeting. (The assignment is to attend a municipal town meeting ranging from Board of Selectmen to School Board. They said they thought this sounded most interesting. Also, they needed to get the points from Mr. Waters for this assignment. Gotta love the honesty of kids! However, they did appear interested in the content of the meeting and a few asked some good questions.

RREC (Rye Recycling Education Committee) – The new committee is off to a good start. They send us minutes of their meetings and keep us informed of their activities.

Town Hall committee Meeting Update – There has been no date set for this committee to resume meeting.

Program – Poster Project – Howard, who has spearheaded the poster project, was the organizer for the Solar Program (see below) and put all his time this month into organizing this program, which was very successful!

Public Safety Building Energy Audit Update – There has been no definitive movement on the report which was presented by the Resilient Building Group, who did the audit.

Solar Program for Residents Wrap-up – Close to 40 residents attended this program and asked a lot of pertinent questions. The presentation was by Kate Epsem of NH Sustainable Energy Association, who did a very good job. We plan on putting her presentation on the Energy Committee site on the town website. We looked at where the attendees had seen the PR on the program, in hopes of putting more energy into that option in the future. However, for those who responded to “How did you find out about this event?”, the responses were: Poster at bank-1, Newspaper-7, Town Website-6, Library sign-3, email-2, Howard-1, Poster at Library-2. So, it is definitely important to get information out on the Town Website and in the newspaper, but we wouldn't want to stop any of the other sources even if they only reach a few people.

Jenness Beach Streetlight evaluation - The students found it very surprising that the Jenness Beach District has 69 streetlights while the rest of Rye, in total, has 9. We explained how Rye is divided into districts which each have their own committees making decisions about their district. However, we also explained that it is not the number of streetlights which is the greatest concern, but the fact that most were installed in 1966 and are extremely inefficient, both in lighting and in cost. Michele will continue to work with the Jenness Beach Streetlight Committee and Eversource to ascertain the best way to resolve this.

Intern Search – We have received 5 applications , most of which look very good. The cut-off for applications is Friday, June 5. Then the interviews will begin.

Adams Park Update – Danna was unable to be at this meeting and is the member involved with the group looking into energy efficiency at the trailer park.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40. The next Rye Energy Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, July 7, 2015, 6:30-8:00 at the Rye Public Library

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