

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
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Energy Task Force Minutes — Special Meeting September 14, 2023

Members present: Kevin Girard (RTM), Mary Childs (RTM), David Peabody (BOF), Greg Attanasio (via phone) (BOS), Ivan Kuvalanka (elector), Ursula Moreshead (elector)

Also present: John Mullens Planning Director,

Members absent: Chris Jones (BoE),

- 1., 2. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** With a quorum established, the meeting of the Energy Task Force (ETF) was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chair Kevin Girard.
3. **Public Comments:** there were no public comments
4. **Approval of 7/24/23 meeting minutes:** Motion by Childs, second by Moreshead to approve the 7/24/2023 minutes as presented. Voice vote: motion passed, Peabody abstained.
5. **Review and discussion of stated charge:** group discussed updates regarding our list of potential changes with the Planning Director, John Mullens. The Planning Department has submitted all required documents for the energy benchmarking conducted by UCONN. This includes all Town building energy use for the past two years. Once the benchmark is complete, the Town would be able to initiate a third party energy audit to identify and plan to address areas where conservation or reduction is possible.

A second topic for the Planning Director was the placement of solar panels on school buildings. Director Mullens reported that he would speak to the Board of Education regarding this.

Board of Selectmen representative Attanasio reported that Public Works Director Schneider is looking into EV charging stations and potential need for zoning changes. At this point a fleet shift would need to be gradual where the smaller vehicles are the target. Larger capacity vehicles are not feasible for EV or Hydrogen power at this time.

The group also discussed ways to benefit residents in Town, for example requesting a zoning change to possibly permit land based solar panel arrays.

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6. **New Business:** Group discussed the plan for our next meeting. The members will discuss research for developing informational ads or fliers to share with our community as a part of an educational energy efficiency campaign for residents.
7. **Adjournment:** Motion made by Peabody seconded by Kuvalanka, Vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm

Submitted by Mary Childs, ETF Secretary