

UNAPPROVED

Minutes of the Peacham Energy Committee – Meeting, October 8, 2026

Zoom and In-person Meeting hosted in Peacham, VT

Time	October 8, 2026, 7:00PM - 8:25 PM (EST)
Committee Members	Charlie Byron (chair), Tom Bryer, Bevin Barber-Campbell, Dick Browne
Public	Dave Edwards, Cedric Farrell, David Jacobs

Key Outcomes

- **Dick Brown** resigned from the committee effective immediately. We will all miss Dick and wish him well. The Chair in particular will miss his attention to meeting dynamics and legal requirements.
- **Peacham Emergency Relief Fund (PERF) fundraising.** The Peacham Energy Committee voted unanimously to assist PERF in creating a fundraising campaign around heating and fuel assistance.
We decided not to set up a separate fund for this, as so much of past PERF assistance has been in support of these needs already; nor did we choose to participate in the grant decision making. The Committee will create a fundraising letter under our collective signatures, and will assist in doing the mailing. If available and allowable we also agreed to utilize remaining MERP funds for production and mailing costs.
- **Membership Recruitment:** The committee agreed to use a combination of public announcements (Front Porch Forum, For the Love of Peacham) and personal invitations to recruit two new members

Next steps

Bevin Barber-Campbell

- Confirm availability and allowable use of MERP funds (\$476.91) with Rebecca (Town Clerk) for PERF fundraising campaign mailing costs.
- Draft the fundraising case statement/letter for the PERF. .
- (With Charlie), update and distribute membership recruitment announcements

Charlie Byron

- (With Bevin), update and distribute membership recruitment announcements
- Contact Rebecca Washington about the possibility of an “energy resources” listing on the back of the Peacham town phone book.
- Sound out Bruce Courtot on rejoining the Committee.

Dave Edwards

- Coordinate the printing of mailing envelopes and labels via the PERF, with PEC members’ assistance.

Progress & Status

- **Window Dressers:** 15 homes received inserts (84 total inserts), contributing to a four-town build of nearly 300 inserts scheduled for October.
- **AWIP Presentation:** The event was deemed successful in providing expert guidance on heat pumps and weatherization, though members suggested moving future sessions to June or July to allow residents more time to apply for assistance.
- **Tabling:** Outreach at the recycling center was viewed as more effective for reaching needy residents than traditional town-wide meetings.

Net Metering Briefing

- Charlie reviewed policy changes for residential solar (“net metering”) that are under study by the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC), highlighting the tension between utility costs and renewable energy incentives.
- The PUC is revising net metering to address the regressive nature of subsidies, which are currently funded through utility bills. In addition they are studying other aspects of Vermont’s current solar development process to assess the need for changes. Charlie has suggested moving solar incentives into the state budget (funded by the progressive income tax) rather than utility rates, which fall more heavily on lower-income Vermonters.