

Pelham Energy Committee (EC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Virtual meeting (recording is available)

Meeting called to order: 7:36 pm

Present: John Larsen (JL) (co-chair), Tony Rogers (TR) (co-chair), Randall Spalding-Fecher (RSF), Karen Ribeiro (KR), Tom Thompson (TT)

Note-taker: Randall Spalding-Fecher

Minutes

- JL will review last few meetings to catch up, and RSF will send any necessary minutes

New Business

- Town Meeting (TM) Report – due in mid-February – all committees should report on their climate change-related work;
- **RSF will make first draft of TM Report back from EC – get details from Susannah**

Pelham Community Center and Safety Complex VRF project

- Update on progress: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) reports were sent recently; held pre-construction meeting in December; plumbing all specified; Mike Biachini (MB) has approved.
- “Notice to Proceed” is required from Town and agreement with contractors; MB suggested that Town discuss with contractors when would be best time to start; Town did ask this, but contractors have not responded; but contract does not have penalty for lack of performance or late delivery; contractors have started procurement.
- MVP grant must be spent by end of June 2021; Green Communities grant by Sep 2021.
- Clerk of the Works (CotW) is on board, but not active yet
- Need google doc to account for all EC member time on this project, since this counts toward the Town’s contribution in-kind

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)/Joint Powers Entity (JPE)

- KR is Pelham member of task force on CCA project (Amherst, Pelham, Northampton) – working on Joint Powers Entity that will be the actual utility business for the towns
- Goal is to get more members to join JPE over time (i.e. other communities), so that it can own clean energy production to supply these communities. Long term goals are to reduce emissions, protect land, support municipalities. Looking at other experiences (e.g. successful Cape Light Compact, several in California).
- Western Mass Community Choice Energy Group has led the effort (formed by three towns) for years; \$50k raised earlier that funded legal work; working to raise more to support more development; working on legal entity documents and rules, especially with many communities of different sizes.
- Request for Quotation (RFQ) upcoming for consultant to prepare the legal documents to petition the Mass Dept of Public Works
- JPE will have director from each of the participating communities
- JL: is Select Board (SB) up to speed? KR presented at recent SB meeting to update them.
- TT: would Pelham be an owner of the JPE? (KR: yes, member) – will there be capital requirements, fiduciary responsibilities, etc.? (KR: focus on state and federal funding to support set up costs; then funding will be from CCA energy revenues and state funds; Task Force has good attorney and funding for their time and support)

- Amherst has taken the lead, their sustainability manager has been key;
- Next meeting is Monday – every other week meetings; plus JPE sub-group, CCA sub-group, fund raising sub-group, etc.
- Process is approved by Town Meeting; representative is appointed by SB
- Goal to have JPE by July 1
- JL: TM approved SB signing on to a plan for a multi-town CCA endeavor; SB has permission from TM to approve a plan.
- KR: JPE will be an even larger entity with more possibility; don't know full content of the plan yet, so not clear what town's responsibilities might be. Still need to stay in touch with process.
- JL: would like to be able to have the JPE rep on EC to support
- KR will introduce TT to meeting in the next few weeks, to start transition from KR to TT as representative from Pelham
- KR and TT will follow up

New member search

- TT is a possible new member; RSF will also talk to Mary, then consider expansion to 5 members soon.

Old Business

- No old business

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, February 2, 7:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm