

Energy Committee 10/3/2017

Rhodes Building, Pelham, MA

Called to order: 7:30 scheduled 7:38p formal

Members present: Tony Rogers, Stan Swiercz, John Larsen, Alisa Pearson

Also present:

Minutes from previous meeting

This meeting note taker: John Larsen

New Agenda item: bad news in the energy markets

- Solar trade case.
- Puerto Rico
- DOE-FERC order

New member search: No news

META Grant

- Paper work snafu occurred but has been dealt and grant is working its way through town bureaucracy.

Guardian Energy update on Community Center HVAC:

- Guardian was only thinking about working with existing system and removing glycol
- Worried that payback will be too long with heat pumps to qualify for a green communities grants.
- Call next week to consider options for that break the project into pieces. Such as a single commercial heat pump up stairs and a sequence of minisplits down stairs
- Tony talked to Rick, prevailing wage is required.
 - Tony would like to reach out to three Wmass contractors in consultation with Rick to see if we can get them to think about additional assessments. Tony will report back if any site visits get set up.
- Stan will keep dogging guardian for more action

CCA Plus

- Amherst CCA resolution got rolled up with 100% RE, net-zero Energy buildings, and ended up with a nonbinding endorsement of CCA but no empowerment language.
- Northampton: Stan and Northampton representative have analyzing competitive electricity rates secured by CCA procurement companies Peregrine and Colonial. Stan calculates that even though savings won't be large from group buying there's still

enough space (a mill or two/kWh) to raise sufficient revenue to run a CCA and investment fund.

- Tony asked what the upside really is from CCA and admitted some skepticism that there's no downside to CCA
- Stan said that its about getting professional assistance to build an organization that allows for more local control and investment of local renewable electric supply. And then building on that.
- Pelham may be able to do a lot on its own.
- Congressman McGovern and Alisa spoke and he said that there could be federal funds available to help.
- Alisa noted that Pelham currently spends a disproportionate amount of funds on public safety. What if the town felt the same way about safety in the context of a microgrid system that could support at risk (for example elderly) members of the population when severe weather hits. We could prevent outcomes such as what was recently experienced in Florida and PR. Alternatively, a group of private citizens could do it on their own.

Solar Consultant Candidate Discussion

- Committee discussed the possibility of securing more than one contractor to provide the services required to get the project up an running.
- Next steps:
 - Follow up with Zapotec, Solar Design Associates, Neo Virtus, Beth Greenblatt
 - Set of standard questions for all candidates
 - Start with Grant questions and go from there
 - Stan will draft questions and circulate to the group
 - Initiate outreach ASAP

New Agenda item: Big picture

- Gotta be fundable
- Gotta be sellable
- Gotta get Pelham off fossil fuels
- Gotta improve safety and build community

John will call Keith Barnicle in McGovern's office about USDA resources.

Adjourn: 9:16pm