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Subject: Minutes of Pelham Energy Committee, October 17, 2017  
Date: October 24, 2017 at 10:06:26 AM EDT  
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## **Minutes of Pelham Energy Committee, October 17, 2017**

Rhodes Building

Meeting called to order at 7:53 PM

Present: Stan, John, Tony

Minutes reviewed and accepted as amended by Stan

### **1. Committee Members**

Questions have been raised by Kathy M about the validity of the decision-making process to expand the committee. Clarification will be pursued. Alisa has spoken to specialists in Boston and the opinion she got was that the decision was legal. There are rumors of interest in joining the committee from Peter Hepler.

### **2. Article for the Pelham Slate newsletter**

It was suggested that we should write an article for the town newsletter about what Energy Committee is doing. The deadline for submission is December 1. It would need to be about 300-400 words. Contents: we exist and are looking for new members; summary of what we are doing. No one has volunteered yet to do it.

### **3. Green Communities Grant**

Annual report for fiscal year 2017 is due December 1. Fuel use info will be sent to Mass Energy Insight so they can fill out documents. This is on track, in process.

#### 4. Mass CEC Solar Thermal Challenge Kickoff

There will be a kickoff meeting of a state effort to encourage solar thermal water heating systems. The program is modelled on solarize MA. The more people who buy solar thermal systems, the cheaper they will be. HCOG is running it. Stan plans to go and will report back.

#### 5. Solar Consultant Search

We need to get a solar consultant to provide the services outlined in the META grant award. We have a choice of getting a quote from a state-approved consultant or, alternatively, getting bids from 3+ contractors. Only Beth Greenblatt is on state pre-approved system. Having reviewed a number of consultant qualifications, we are not yet sure which consultants are best suited for the scope. We have previously identified four possible contenders. Stan recommends that we go the traditional RFP route. The committee agreed.

We had a discussion about how to specify, in the RFP, the level of design detail that will need to be addressed by the consultant. John opined that we should add a mention of other options for a revenue stream (voltage control ...). Stan suggested adding references / project examples and develop the RFP for the final project. These changes were accepted by the committee.

A proposal that we take this proposal to the select board so we can proceed was made and approved by the committee.

#### 6. Rep. Jim McGovern Funding Possibility for The Town-Building PV System

Discussions with Jim McGovern suggest that the USDA might have grants for rural communities to address energy issues. Karen has contacted Keith Barnacle (a McGovern aide). Apparently, Karen Ribiero has also contacted Jim McGovern about such funding. So we don't have conflicting requests, it was suggested we should would get clarification about what Karen was looking for. After discussion, we decided that John will call Keith Barnacle specifically regarding funding for a solar PV system on behalf of the committee.

#### 7. CCA Update

Stan reported on efforts in other towns to organize funding for an evaluation of the potential for a multi-town CCA (Community Choice Aggregation). The Amherst CCA citizen's group is involved in getting resolutions on town meeting warrants. This effort (for 100% renewables and net zero buildings) has muddled efforts to get CCA funding approved. Northampton is moving ahead in the city council with considering a CCA funding resolution. Stan is trying to get a better sense of what to expect for costs, staffing, etc. for a CCA.

Alternatively, Mass Community Energy Assn has organized a voluntary buying club using Good Energy. Rates are still very close to market rates.

8. Possibility of new HVAC for the Community Building  
Rick Adamcek is arranging for contractor estimates. There is no progress to report. Tony will check in with Rick to see if there is any way I can support him with this.

Adjourned at 8:59 PM