

MINUTES

Meeting of: Pelham MA Energy Committee
Date of Meeting: October 24, 2017
Time of Meeting: 7:30 PM, formally opened at 7:44 PM Adjourned at 9:50 PM
Location of meeting: Ramsdell Room, Pelham MA
Members Present: Stan Swiercz, Tony Rogers, Alisa Pearson
Also Present: Peter Hepler
Notetaker: Alisa Pearson

Minutes for October 3 approved.

Membership Search:

- EC moved and unanimously voted that Peter Hepler join the EC. He will send a letter of intent to Susannah Carey.

Solar Consultant Search:

- Voted to allow bid to be opened with EC Chair and Chief procurement officer, Susannah Carey present on 11/29/17.
- Stan is the contact for the 4 solar design companies that we solicited bids for to use the META grant.

CCA Status:

- Discussed CCA: Stan to meet with Northampton's Sam Titelman to explore funding a feasibility study for CCA Plus (=the non-broker model: Towns keep the .001% or "pro-mill" that would go to broker and then use these funds to further fund additional energy projects that benefit the town- including energy conservation initiatives).
- Stan estimates CCA Plus feasibility study cost to be around 100K.
 - Stan has run the numbers on three CCA brokers (conventional model CCA), Colonial, Peregrine, and Good Energy and found they currently offered neither significant cost savings nor local energy offerings.
 - Discussed what to recommend to the select board. Suggested it might make sense for Pelham to proceed with its own if local renewable electricity could be acquired at a competitive price. No action taken. Discussion to be continued.
 - Mentioned Community Solar as a way to finance large projects with small private contributions.
 - Mentioned Joint Power Authority dedicated to developing local renewable energy and energy efficiency as alternative to CCA.

Community Center HVAC:

- Tony and Rick spoke at length. Rick and Tony to schedule HVAC vendor visits so that Pelham can understand what the costs of heat pumps may be to replace current heating and cooling in library.
- It is important in these conversations to keep in mind that there are grants through Green Communities and the CEC: in a best case scenario, we would find contractors willing and able to partner with Pelham to make the case for the design to these granting agencies.
- The Community Center has a basement moisture issue that needs to be addressed, potentially bringing a large energy savings.

History:

- Pelham got the Green Communities status in 2012, receiving a 130K grant for the CC roof project completed in 2016. Pelham is now eligible for up to 250K for the Spring 2017 grant.
- The select board will need to approve a grant application. Keep in mind that we need to re-plumb and the boiler is due to be replaced.

Solar Thermal Challenge:

- Stan will find out about the Mass Clean Energy Center Solar Thermal Challenge and report back.

Guardian Energy Status:

- Guardian energy, who did a walk-through have been hard to reach and will not do heat pumps.

Mass Energy Insight:

- We viewed the Mass Energy Insight webpage and noticed that there is no clarity on why energy use was up by 16% last year from baseline.
- Electrical monitoring can be set up at a relatively low cost. Discussed approaching the Friends of the Library for funds to study the Community Center.

Respectfully submitted by Alisa Pearson, Mother of Willa, very worried about the 3 gyres we are leaving our children and their children.