

Energy Committee Minutes

December 4, 2019

7-8:40 PM

Charlotte Town Hall

In Attendance: EC members: Matt Burke, Rebecca Foster, Suzy Hodgson, Deirdre Holmes, Bill Kallock, and John Quinney; Planning Commission Liaison: Gerald Boucher; Guest: Alex Perkins (Monkton).

- 1) Review agenda.
- 2) Approval of 11/6/19 minutes – approved. Rebecca to post online.
- 3) Button Up November 9 – Suzy’s house had 9 visitors, and Bill’s had 2; both were successful and interesting tours. The requirement to RSVP might have inhibited some attendance; next time we might ask visitors to gather at a designated place, perhaps with food or discussion and without needing to sign up, and at that point hand out addresses.
- 4) Park & Ride meeting with CCRPC – Matt organized a meeting on Nov 14 with various town stakeholders to try to coordinate town efforts for a P&R.
 - a) They reviewed past efforts and different possible sites in town. To coordinate with the bus route the emphasis is on the Rt 7 corridor.
 - b) They discussed the difference between a state and a municipal P&R, and concluded there’s more interest in pursuing a municipal P&R.
 - c) CCRPC has offered to help insofar as their staff is able.
 - d) Fleamarket spot on Rt 7 is owned by the town; there is power there; the new restaurant next to the property would like some additional parking as well; could install solar awnings.
 - e) Follow-up: Rural Transit Roundtable meeting in Jan; EC members visit the train station for viability and report back; CEC sub-group assemble criteria/principles to take to the town committee that is starting to work on this; Suzy will ask trails committee if they are interested in joining committee; Matt to coordinate next meeting with town group.
- 5) Library solar – John reports on his work.
 - a) On Nov 25 the SB agreed to work with Green Lantern Solar for the library roof installation and off-site solar for other town properties (part of a 500 kw plant in Vernon). There are a lot of pieces to pull together to achieve our goal of getting the signed net metering agreement by the end of year, including a review by the town attorney.
 - b) John will present a progress report at the SB mtg 12/9—SOF please.
 - c) If all goes well, the SB will sign necessary documents at the mtg on 12/16—SOF if possible, but less critical.
 - d) The main complication is due to F&R having a hybrid status of being both town and independent nonprofit; might not be able to figure that out in time. It would be possible from our perspective to go forward with the library only, but in doing so might lose GLS’s interest (no economy of scale). If GLS is discouraged by that, could offer all of the town except F&R, which could possibly be added on at a later date.

- e) Preferred sites analysis: GLS verbally expressed interested in doing an analysis, for free in return for the opportunity to develop solar. By the way, such installations earn the town tax and lease revenues—John suggests earmarking that income for the CEC’s budget. Wait to move on this until the library business is done.
- f) Resolved: The CEC supports John working with the SB, Library, F&R, and GLS to finalize the net metering solar agreements for the Library, town buildings and facilities. Passed.
- g) EV charger—Bill reports that there is not enough capacity in the library wiring so they are going to wire up to town hall, but the charger will still be in the library parking lot. Bill to follow-up on GMP’s offer of \$550/charger.
- h) Energy dashboard—Chris at ReArch has been slow to make a proposal for it so still don’t know what is involved or what it would cost.
- 6) Town hall lighting—Doug working with Dean; will report at next meeting.
- 7) Window Dressers—Transition Town going forward with project; 8 houses signed up; window assembly party in late January at the Grange.
- 8) VECAN conference—Suzy is our only member who may be able to go.
- 9) Meetings will remain first Wednesday of the month except second Wed in January, 1/8. RF to post on the town calendar.
- 10) SB will discuss our budget on 12/16. Rebecca will find out time on agenda.
- 11) Mike Yantachka organized a climate caucus meeting at the Senior Center for 12/16, 7-8:30. The CEC will co-sponsor it. Rebecca has asked Mike what we can do to help in addition to showing up and asking questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Foster