

Energy Committee Minutes

March 4, 2020

7-9 PM

Charlotte Town Hall

In Attendance: EC members: Matt Burke, Rebecca Foster, Deirdre Holmes, Ethan Lisle, and Doug Paton; Planning Commission Liaison: Gerald Boucher; Select Board Liaisons: Frank Tenney and Matt Krasnow.

- 1) Review agenda
- 2) Approval of 2/5/20 minutes – approved with changes. Rebecca to post online.
- 3) Rebecca explained that Bill and John will not be renewing their terms on the committee, which are up in April, and that Suzy is stepping down as co-chair in order to make continued participation on the committee as a member more realistic. Rebecca and Suzy have their interviews with the select board on March 23rd. With the reduced number of people to work on CEC initiatives, Rebecca proposed to think of the CEC work inversely, i.e., fit the work to the people rather than the people to the work.
 - a) Members wanted/are willing to take on the following areas:
 - i) Rebecca—administration, education, weatherization (which is not active at the moment), and town solar support (but not leading this initiative)
 - ii) Matt—Town Plan goal monitoring, transportation (P&R, public transport), and town solar support (but not leading this initiative)
 - iii) Deirdre—school district, and town solar support (but not leading this initiative)
 - iv) Doug—town buildings (LEDs, Senior Center, F&R) and EV charging
 - v) The hope was expressed that Suzy (not present at the meeting) might be willing to lead on the town solar initiative
 - b) The following specifics regarding CEC initiatives were discussed:
 - i) Library dashboard to display the energy savings of the new building. Is this relevant if there is no solar on the roof? What is the cost? Rebecca to ask John if he knows more about this initiative, or whom else to ask. This topic raised the question of whether the library might host a dedicated computer for the Vermont Community Energy Dashboard. Matt to find out the longterm viability of the Energy Dashboard and if that's worth our pursuit.
 - ii) Town solar—In February the selectboard determined that it would pursue town solar. We discussed various routes to securing town solar, including net metering in the way that Green Lantern proposed; leasing Charlotte land for net metering; and developing a town-owned system on town land. We also discussed the potential for community solar. Given all of the options, we felt we should do some intelligence-gathering before deciding on an RFP.
 - (1) Rebecca will ask John for transfer of information learned from the CEC's 2019 solar consultant Leigh Seddon.
 - (2) Rebecca will have a discussion with Aegis; Matt will have a discussion with Encore and Vt Law School; Deirdre will have a discussion with

Norwich and SunCommon; Matt K will reach out to his brother.

- (3) We discussed what kind of RFP is reasonable and how many options we could put into one RFP and realistically expect vendors to respond.
- iii) Deirdre reported that school districts have a cap on the amount of net metering each may have, which is a hindrance to developing solar for schools. Deirdre will discuss with Mike Yantachka.
- iv) Park & ride—We discussed possible future development of the flea market land, including a town-owned P&R with solar awnings, EV charger/s, and bus stop, and a large shed/structure for the town's road commissioner. The select board designated \$20K from next fiscal year's budget for scoping from the capital improvement fund. This will be on a select board agenda in April.
- v) Matt will reconvene the P&R group with CCRPC.
- vi) There is possible interest in integrating a transportation network with the school buses. The longterm CVU transportation person Ken Martin is retiring; the student group ENACT has pushed to have a student on the hiring committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Foster