

Enfield Energy Committee
MARCH 26, 2024
Draft Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm

Attending in person: Tracy Young, Kim Quirk, Wendell Smith, Marta Ceroni (Chair)

Excused: Jo-Ellen Courtney

Guests: Anicet Mabonzo, Fonroche Lighting (online), Charlie Clark, Ed Morris

Minutes from February

MOTION: *Tracy moved to approve minutes from the last meeting. Kim seconded. Approved unanimously.*

Streetlighting

Ed attended a conference in TX about solar lighting options. Solar streetlights might be well suited for upcoming projects - parking lots (Whitney Hall or Fire Safety building, for example).

Anicet showed some videos of newly installed lighting in Keene, NH. They use an external engineering firm. Keene could make the rules in their case because they are in an "urban compact" area. Enfield is not, and the state makes rules for us for lighting on public streets. Fonroche has been shipping and installing these lights for 15 years. The lights work for 10-12 years without maintenance. They can work for fifteen days with no sun. The lights do not use motion sensors because they would poorly affect the battery life.

The batteries are assembled and inspected in France. They are secured in a box under the light's solar panel. The lights use NiMH (nickel metal hydroxide - solid state) batteries, which have the advantage of being shippable anywhere and working well in cold climates even at -40F.

Fonroche has a factory in Fort Worth, TX and provides services from Needham (Solar One). All components of the light (except the batteries) are made in the US and meet the 'Buy American' requirements for US Federal incentives (75% of value made with US components).

The lights are low voltage, 12V is the highest power, so there is no need to hire an electrician to install or to change out parts. Lights can be monitored and programmed via the web; they can be selectively turned on/off and dimmed depending on lighting needs.

The cost of each light ranges between \$3000 and \$5000 each. An order of 8-10 units can provide a better availability and better pricing. Installation cost should be much less than trenching and hiring electricians, hence generating savings for the towns (often 20%).

ACTION: Marta will send a note to the chair of the planning board about the possibility of using these lights in the Laramie Farms project.

ACTION: Tracy will ask Ed for a report from the electrical contractor for both new buildings to see if financially we can integrate solar lighting.

Community Solar Rebate Program

The next step is to see if Enfield qualifies for this program, which is dependent on the total loads.

Action: Kim to work with Alisa to get all Enfield Electric bills in prep for Solar Rebate program.

Buy out the DPW Solar Array

The Fall of 2025 is when our committee needs to identify the sum of money needed to buy out the solar array and make a proposal to Capital Improvement for discussion at the Town Meeting. The original cost of the array was \$185,000. We might be looking at 60% of the original cost for the buyout. If we think we can get a grant for this buyout we need to be looking for that grant now.

Community Power Discretionary Funds

This Spring is a good time to start considering different program ideas for Community Power discretionary funds.

Action: Marta to include this topic in the May agenda. Once the Energy Committee has discussed any programs, we can then present to the Selectboard.

Climate Goals for Master Plan

"Ready for 100" might not be best suited for Enfield. We might want to set some goals similar to surrounding towns, e.g. Lebanon's climate goals.

Action: Wendell volunteered to research Lebanon's goals as a start.

April meeting

The April meeting is being canceled due to the majority of the members of the Energy Committee not being in town.

Kim moved to adjourn; Marta seconded

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.