

Enfield Energy Committee Minutes, 2/25/2020

Attending: Kurt Gotthard, Jo-Ellen Courtney, Charlie Clark, Kim Quirk, Wendell Smith
Excused: Marta Ceroni

We approved minutes from Jan 28, 2020.

Solarize Program - Wendell and Hope are discussing whether they can take this program on. We suggest that they personally ask a few others (who are not on the committee). If they can get 3 or 4 more people engaged, we would support this program.

PPA: The Power Purchase Agreement warrant article, #22, made it to publication for this year's town meeting. The energy committee should be able to answer basic about this PPA:

1) Does it cost the tax payers money? No, there are investors who would own the solar; the Selectboard would negotiate a power purchase rate that is better than what they are getting from Liberty. After 6 years, it is possible that the town could buy the solar array, but they don't have to. It would have to go to town meeting in the future for a purchase to go forward.

2) What are the benefits? Immediate benefit is a reduction in total electric costs for the DPW. Long term benefit, if/when the town owns the array outright is a much larger reduction in electric costs.

3) What are the drawbacks or possible pitfalls? If electricity rates significantly fall for multiple years in a row, the town will continue to pay the rates negotiated in this PPA. Over the past 20 years, rates have increased on average 3%. Rates have never gone down from one year to the next.

4) How does this solar array offset the DPW building usage? The array is would be mounted on the salt shed across the parking lot from the DPW. The installation would include trenching to the DPW electrical meter.

5) If a third party installs at their cost, what is the benefit to them?

The investor can take the 26% federal tax credit that a municipality cannot take, since the town doesn't have to pay federal taxes. After about 6 years the investors have gotten their money back and the array becomes available for the Town to purchase, if they wish for about 60% of the original cost. If not purchased, the Town continues to for the solar energy generated.

Community Choice Aggregation: Community power sub-committee: Kim, Jo-Ellen, Wendell, Marta

When there are issues regarding Community Choice Aggregation we will report.
Nothing to report right now.

Carbon Cash-Back Initiative - warrant article 23: Petition asking for a Carbon Fee and Dividend support. Voting YES will instruct our Selectboard to send a letter to our legislators stating that we are supportive of these measures to help reduce fossil fuel usage.

If asked at town meeting, the Energy Committee would like a unanimous response. Everyone in the meeting agreed to this statement: “the energy committee strongly supports ways to reduce climate pollution. We did not study the details of this warrant article, but believe we will need many different approaches to address this serious problem.”

DPW Audit: An Energy Audit for DPW is highly recommended by the energy committee.

Streetlights.

Kurt Gotthard has followed up with the Chief of Police. There is no action at this time due to lack of support of the Selectboard.

Master Plan

The Planning Board is in its preliminary stages. They will be doing outreach for subcommittees to work on various topics.

Clean Energy NH

Our committee is now a municipal member. With this membership we can receive their monthly electronic newsletter and two admissions to their yearly energy conference. They also offer a legislative update available to members. If anyone is interested, their name can be added to receive it. The Executive Director offered to come to one of our meetings. This might happen at a future date.

Meeting adjourned, 7:15pm

Minutes Submitted by:
Kim Quirk