

Energy Committee Minutes  
11/15/16, Whitney Hall, 5:15pm

Attending: Charlie DePuy, Charlie Clark, Wendell Smith, Phil Vermeer, Alisa Bonnette, Kim Quirk, Jim Fenn

\* Approved minutes from June meeting

\* Update on Rebate for DPW lighting project: Liberty is providing a rebate of \$610 from the light project that Charlie Clark led -- 66% of that was provided by the Energy Committee. We discussed how we could use that money since it probably won't come in until late in the year and would need to be spent this year.

A motion was made to ask next for \$2000 for 2017 budget. The argument is that the Energy Committee has saved that much from the DPW work (actually we are saving a lot more than that now that the lights are turning off), so we have shown that we can use money to leverage greater savings than what we spend. Last year's budget was for \$1500; so we would like \$2000 in 2017 to turn that into more than \$2000 in savings.

-- Motion to ask for \$2000 for 2017 budget: passed unanimously

\* There is about \$500 left in this year's budget. A motion was made to purchase LED tube replacements bulbs for the Library and other parts of Whitney Hall. Charlie and Phil agreed to research bulbs available today and make the purchase.

-- Motion to use \$500 to purchase LED bulbs: passed unanimously

\* Discussion of a PPA agreement for the Town to purchase electricity from an investor who would install, own and operate a solar array on town property.

The basic idea with a PPA is that the investor would do all of the paperwork, permitting, purchase, installation and maintenance of a solar array which is located on town property. They would also be formally leasing the property and insuring the array. The town would pay no up

front costs, but the array would feed directly into its meter, offsetting as much as 90% of its electric bill. The town would then pay the investor for the solar electricity generated on a month by month basis, at a price that is lower than what they are paying today and increasing at a rate lower than Liberty Utilities increases have been over the last decade.

Next steps:

- 1) Steve Schneider and Jim Taylor are providing some feedback as to whether the new shed roof at the DPW site would be a good candidate.
- 2) We don't know if Liberty would allow this size array at that location without paying for an engineering study (about \$500). Energy Emporium (a possible investor) will investigate this.
- 3) In order to get some ideas as to what kind of reduced rate the town could get, Energy Emporium will provide a proposal. Phil Vermeer will ask Norwich Technologies for a PPA proposal; and we can review similar rate reductions that could be achieved by going to a third party source for the energy part of the Liberty electric bill.

In order to take advantage of existing NHPUC rules on net metering before they become less advantageous in February '17, it is essential to apply to Liberty for an interconnect permit as soon as location and power line suitability are known, an LLC is formed, Select Board approval of the project given and a contract signed with the LLC. Then an RFP circulated to potential contractors. This should all possibly happen before the end of the year (?) (There is a Select Board meeting December 19)

Charlie DePuy attended a wood burning workshop, which he thought was very interesting. The latest technology in wood pellets rivals gas in its "clean" emissions, and it is a locally sourced fuel that can be grown and harvested sustainably.

Charlie has sent an outline of the EEC proposal for a bus loop between Lebanon and Enfield, using Rte 4A, to Van Chestnut at Advance Transit. We hope it will be considered at their upcoming annual route appraisal.

Kim and Phil will be attending the LES (local energy solutions) conference this Saturday.

Meeting adjourned: 6:35pm

