

Energy Committee Minutes

March 11, 2013

Present: Steve Rice, Larry Hunter, Clark Sylvester, Bruce Davidson, Mark Tuomenin, and Becky Torres.

Visitor: Ben Brau

The meeting convened at 7:05 PM.

Agenda Items:

1. Minutes from the last meeting on 2/11/13 were reviewed and approved as written with one minor correction.
2. Solar project at the Fire Station. Becky adjusted the billing for the solar power production to be divided between the Fire Station (50%), Town Hall (20%) and the Maintenance Bldg (30%). There was still some credit for the fire station after the last billing. **Will need to watch and adjust again later if necessary.**
3. ALTRU. The Select Board signed an agreement with ALTRU that provides an escalating payment that starts at \$0.005/kwh and will increase every 5 yrs provided the electrical rates go up. Taxes on the property and equipment still need to be negotiated. There is no specific timing on this project as ALTRU needs to line up investors. Estimated cost of the project is about \$3MM.
4. Additional Solar Sites: There was quite a bit of discussion on this topic. The finance committee would like to meet with us to talk about a prospective 300 kw project. **We may meet with some of the committee members at our next meeting. (Becky to invite.) We also agreed to look at maps at the next meeting and everyone will bring laptops to access the GIS system.** There are some probable sites. (1) Library site (20 acres, but 1/3 are wetlands); (2) 10 acres behind town hall; (3) 10 acres nearby; (4) 60 acre piece abutting the library site that is not developable and owned privately (owner wants to sell); and (5) 8 acres off Wendell Rd. Following the review of the maps, a field trip will be scheduled. Apparently there is some legislation that makes it difficult for municipalities to establish solar power plants. **Becky will forward an email to us about proposed legislation that should make it easier for towns to establish municipal solar powered electrical generating plants.**
5. Electric Vehicle Charging Station: Becky indicated that at times in the past these have been available for free. Potential sites are Town Hall and the Library.
6. Free Tire Inflation Station at the Maintenance Building. On hold until Fire Station environmental issue is resolved. We are still waiting for a report from the D&P based on the last engineer's inspection.
7. SREC funds and Revolving account for Energy Committee. Not discussed, but the data is up to date through December. **Becky will bring proposed warrant article next meeting.**
8. Mass Energy Insight Data. Will review next meeting. **Steve will review and send out some reports. We will also bring laptops to the next meeting to access the data base.**
9. Website: The website information needs to be updated. **Steve will send out the content of the current website and a draft with some improvements for others on the committee to comment and edit. Becky will send Steve the packet of training materials for editing the website.**
10. New member of Committee: Ben Brau has been invited by the members to join the energy committee and he has accepted. **Becky will ask to Select Board to approve.**
11. Next meeting is Monday, April 8, 2013, 7 PM at town hall. Agenda items will be same as above.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Rice