

Town of Becket

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

September 24, 2015

Present: Garth Klimchuk, Bob Gross, Cathy DeFoe, Katherine Hoak, Bill Girard

- 1. Meeting was called to order at 10:10 by Garth, seconded by Cathy.**
- 2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Garth so moved, Katherine seconded.**
- 3. Current Business Items:**

a. Community Solar- Seth's update on current status

We discussed the roof on Town Hall. There is a time restriction; it must be done by 2016. A grant would be necessary. If we abandoned having solar panels on the roof (after roof repair,) community solar would take care of electrical needs of Town Hall. Bob expressed his wish that Becket had solar panels visible to tourists, etc. and there was consensus on this. Bob agreed to review a pro forma to determine the costs and benefits of a roof mount system.

We also discussed having panels in the field next to Town Hall. It was agreed that there may be issues associated with the leech-field and septic system which will need further investigation but could be a viable option. In re the roof, we have an estimate that there would be a \$100,000 cost which would take 6-7 years to recover. Once we own it, there would be significant savings. Cathy was going to speak with Ed regarding the roof mount system.

Seth called in. There is a need to downsize the program in Pittsfield. There is an objective to find 1-3 sites between Pittsfield and Lanesboro.

Garth agreed to reach out to the Town of Washington and Camp Wahtitoh to discuss their participation in the community solar project.

It is expected that net-metering will be in the legislature by the end of the year.

- b. Information Session: We put this off until the spring.**
- c. Small hydro net metering: There has been no legislative progress on this.**

It has been learned that the Williams property is not feasible because of its physical landscape and the Otis wind turbine which has taken up local capacity.


Hinsdale has a quarry to be used for solar. Garth will speak with them. Cathy will speak with Ed about the Becket Town Hall roof, its cost, etc.

We need to know Becket's total residences and their energy needs. We also need to investigate the interest of businesses & the town to determine both their load and interest, how they get financial help. We need to speak with local camps about their property and possibilities for community solar. Garth will ask Seth about these possibilities.

4. Next meeting will be November 19, 2015.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 11:39. Cathy, then Bob, then total agreement.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katherine Hoak, Secretary



Chair

Date

10/22/15