

TOWN OF BECKET

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: March 16, 2017

Time: 9:30am

Location: Becket Town Hall Becket Room  
557 Main Street, Becket

Meeting Minutes

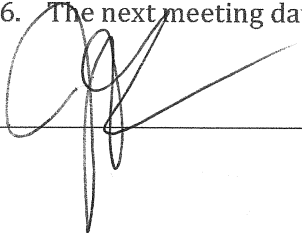
1. Bob Gross called the meeting to order at 9:38. Meeting attendees were Al Blake, Bob Gross, Cathy DeFoe (acting secretary), Ed Gibson, Jeannie Prior, Bill Girard, and Susan Purser.
2. The meeting minutes from February were approved with the date change for the next meeting from 3/23 to 3/16. Garth still needs to complete the December meeting minutes, issue them, and then we will approve them.
3. Current business items:
  - a. We discussed the Coop Power organization usage of town owned property for town residents to form 25 kW max systems. We need to understand if 3 phase power is needed for this or not. Ed will follow up on this. This is still in process.
  - b. Ed discussed the ongoing high efficiency furnace and air conditioning units options. All systems under review are more efficient than current systems, but the costs and paybacks vary. There may be rebates available in the near future as well. Expected decision and the HVAC system is expected by June 30, 2017.
  - c. Solar panels on the Town Hall roof(s) – The annual town budget development is in process. The budget will be very tight due to increases in various educational costs.
  - d. Al visited the Borrego solar project, a 7 megawatt PV system on Tanglewood Circle. There are some conservation town by law and planning board issues with the proposed project.
  - e. Al also mentioned that Chris Kilfoyle of BPVS told him that there is a statute in process to prevent clear cutting of land for solar power sites. Cathy will forward the information sent to her from Chris Kilfoyle on 3/16/17.
  - f. Should we have another info session and if so when? The tax bill inserts will need to be done in a few months. Once we determine the need for 3 phase power for the small coop PV systems, we can determine if there is more information to share with our community.
  - g. The BWS status for participation in community solar – Garth was going to check on this.
  - h. We also reviewed Sun Watt Energy Group/Ameres Co the developer considering PV installation on this 36 acres in the former Jacobs Well property. The town is interested in using approximately half of this property for town use as well, but both projects can be done on this property. This project would likely result in revenue for the whether through sale or lease of the land

4. New Items

- a. There will be an information exchange on April 27 at 6:30 at the Senior Center for all energy committees. Al will not be able to attend, so we would like to have someone volunteer to do this to represent our group.

5. Meeting adjourned at 10:06.

6. The next meeting date – April 20, 2017.

 Chair      Date 4/20/2017