

TOWN OF BECKET
ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: January 16, 2018

Time: 3:30 PM

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

In Attendance: Garth Klimchuck, Al Blake, Cathy DeFoe, Katherine Hoak, Bill Girard, Bob Markel.

Absent: Robert Gross, Dan Parnell

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:38 PM. Welcome to new Interim Town Administrator Bob Markel.
2. The minutes of the meeting on December 19 were reviewed and approved.
3. Current business items:
 - a. Coop Power use of town property & Jacob's Pillow update from Bob on potential sites.

Bob has been in touch with Malcomb Bliss from Coop power. Jacob's Pillow may be interested in doing something with the town on community solar. Malcomb has set up a meeting at Jacob's Pillow on January 4 with Morgan Taylor and Bob. This meeting on Jan 4 was cancelled. Bob will update us at our next meeting.
 - b. Bill Girard mentioned that we have a development in process for a 25kW solar field now with the expectation that this can be expanded in the future with a priority for an existing solar array. This property is near Jacob's Pillow. The zoning board was not able to help the developer. Bill has begun the process of issuing him a building permit. There is currently no bylaw covering this type of development.
 - c. We reviewed the information on town website originally created by the committee. *Cathy revised several of the documents. Cathy has made all changes recommended by the committee other than recent input from Katherine.* Katherine needs to send a few minor edits to Cathy. Cathy will make these changes and send to Nina.
 - d. Al created a draft for the energy committee's input to the annual report. He will add an update on our status in the Green Communities Act.
 - e. The bids for the new HVAC all came in too high for our budget. We will likely have a special town meeting in March to request the balance needed to meet these bids.
 - f. We cannot apply for any new Green Community funds until the HVAC system is completed.
 - g. The Town of Becket's participation in the Solarize Plus program needs a champion and verification in the minimum population for participation. We

need to determine if we have the minimum number of town residents to participate in this program.

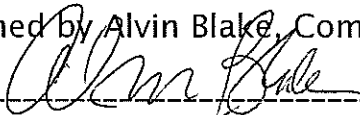
- h. Town aggregation program. Over 50% of the towns in Berkshire County are in aggregation programs at a savings of 10-15% on their power cost. This would require a town meeting vote and a selection process from multiple vendors. The proposal needs to be approved by the state first before it can go before the ATM. The committee agreed to have this on the agenda for the next info session to assess interest in aggregation from our attendees. Cathy will look back at the warrant and previous notes about our committee's exploration of this subject.
- i. Re-review Co-op power proposal for town solar. We are waiting for Dan Parnell to help us out with this. Postponed to the next meeting.
- j. Our town's electricity contract is not up for renewal until the end of 2018. We should look at potential new contractors in the spring of 2018. Each building within the town that has an electric meter is a separate account and each can be set up with a different contractor. Our current contract is with Constellation.
- k. Katheryn has been in touch with Energia, LLC. They have worked with multiple communities on Green Communities funded projects. Jim Barry was familiar with Energia and we had a short conference call with them during our meeting on 1/16/18. Energia has done energy conservation projects with thermal boundary analysis (insulation), not HVAC. They do multiple insulation type installations. They have done multiple building assessments such as schools, libraries, etc. Project prioritization has been multi-pronged with addressing low hanging fruit, first followed by next level, etc. Bob shared his email address with Mark from Energia.

4. Next meeting date - Feb 20, 2018 at NEW TIME ***3:30PM****

5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.

Cathy DeFoe, Secretary

Signed by Alvin Blake, Committee Chair

 _____ Chair 3/21 _____ Date