

TOWN OF BECKET

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: July 19, 2018

Time: 9:30 AM

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

In Attendance: Al Blake, Katherine Hoak, Robert Gross, Cathy DeFoe, Garth Klimchuk, Bob Markel, Dan Parnel

Absent: Bill Girard

1. Meeting called to order at 9:32.
2. Approve minutes of previous meeting with addition of Garth to attendees.
3. Current business items:
 - a. Discuss use of town properties for solar & how to proceed and Status of town hall heating/ac replacement and additional opportunities for green community grants and current status.
 - i. META grant – Bob submitted the application today for this grant to hire a consultant to investigate and gain expertise to review propane vs air spaced mini split heat pumps and to review the potential use of a solar array to offset the energy use of the heat pumps. The total available for this review is \$12,500. This is a first come, first served grant assuming the 30 page application is complete. This grant also required an energy audit, which was last done in 2011. Jim Barry suggested EverSource as a contractor to get an updated audit, which Bob has done. The heat pump system is also eligible for a grant using alternate fuel sources. The \$28,000 remaining to complete the expenditures for our remaining Green Communities Grant work as been extended for one year. We have bids to complete this work on various projects at the 2 fire stations and the highway garage. We need to get this work wrapped up this summer. We will then be eligible for competitive grants in February through Green Communities.
 - ii. Solar by-law Changes – The recently amended solar by law changes approved at the May 2018 ATM are in conflict with the Green Communities Act. A small scale solar consists of a ground mounted system array of 250 kW. We need to amend this by law at the a Special Town Meeting potentially in October. The proposed amendment will be small scale less than 250 kW, either ground or roof mounted and will not require a permit. Any system greater than 250 kW would require a permit.
 - b. Fall Energy Forum
 - i. Our flyer did not go out in the summer tax bill. We will email out through the town, Athenaeum, and other email lists the August 1, September 1, and September 6. Al will ask the Town when the can send out the public notifications from the Town. Cathy will send out the electronic flyer to Bob Gross, Dan Parnell to add to their association email lists.

- ii. The Solar Access program offered through CET will be added to the agenda.
- c. Green Communities Grant covered above.
- d. Town Hall/ AC covered above.
- e. Town Aggregation Program - Bob has signed the agreement with Colonial Power to consult with the Town on community wide aggregation. This is likely a 6-9 month process to complete. Town residents have until July 31 to comment on this program.
- f. Heat Smart Program - Great Barrington has done this for heat system replacements for residents. A committee is formed and they solicit vendors, choose one and promote it to residents. The more residents that sign up, the greater the savings. Robert and Garth are going to research what GB has done. There is a Webinar on August 1 that Bob will review. The deadline for signing up is September 16.
- g. Jacob's Pillow – Community Solar and potential for PILOT increases. Other communities use 25% of assessed value as a target for contribution rates.

Next meeting August 16, 2018 at 9:30 am

Meeting adjourned at 10:26.

Al Blake, Chair