

TOWN OF BECKET

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: October 25, 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

Absent: Bob Markel, Bill Girard, Garth Klimchuk

1. Meeting called to order at 9:38.
2. Approved minutes of September meeting minutes. Bob Gross to issue the August meeting minutes once he issues them.
3. Current business items:
  - a. Discuss use of town properties for solar
    - i. META grant status– Bob has completed the documents to receive the grant and the select board has approved it as well. Bob Markel is providing a statement of work to be considered for this consultant role. Al has also contacted Beth Greenblatt who is very skilled in this area. She has not yet returned Al's call. We have a solar PV project consultant proposal from Resident energy for \$9000 as a reference for total expected costs. The consultant fees for the air source heat pump systems need to be funded as well. When we receive the grant, Bob recommends that the Energy Committee make a recommendation on the consultant and then review this with the Selectboard.
    - 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. At least one solar ground mounted system array of 250 kW or greater cannot require a special permit. We need to amend this by law at the a Special Town Meeting potentially in November. It is critical that this by law issue be resolved prior to applying for future grants that could be used for the town hall HVAC system. The open meeting on the change to the solar by laws to conform to the Green Communities Act had 4 attendees. The new language has been approved by Jim Barry and the Berkshire Regional Planning committee. This must be passed before the next round of grants or prior to the end of January.*
    - iii. Status of special town meeting – This should be scheduled on November 7 and will likely take place in late 2018 or early 2019.
  - b. Status of town hall heating/ac replacement. - We are waiting for the grant to hire the consultant to review options for the system as well as how to fund it.
  - c. Fall Energy Forum
    - i. *Feedback from attendees and presentors. We had great questions and attendance.*

- ii. *What to do with new emails of attendees. They were shared with Beverly anded to the public mailings sent from the town.*
    - iii. We would like to participate in the Town newsletter. Al will ask Bob if this is possible.
  - d. Status of current Green Communities Grant. The bids are in and the vendor has been chosen to make energy improvements at the Town garage. *The energy audit on the town hall has been completed.* Bob to share results
  - e. Status of town aggregation program - This won't be available to Becket residents until next year. Our consultant has applied for the program. There won't be any activity until likely January or February next year. We had a call with 15 local towns and with DOER to do the consultation step for a filing for a docket number to provide by June, bidding can take place for the community aggregation process. We need to set up a subcommittee of our Energy Committee member(s) and others to do the support needed for our community aggregation hopefully to take place next summer.
  - f. Discussion of Jacob's Pillow pursuing community solar – *there appears to be an ongoing project review between Jacobs Pillow and Coop Power. Jacob's Pillow is spending the majority of their time and effort on their capital plan for building and grounds.* We are still waiting for them to respond to this potential project.
  - g. Status of reporting on this years green community grant and next years plan. This is in Bob's hands. Al has offered to help.
- 4. MMA Constellation Round Table presentation attended by Bob Markel and Al Blake. The Town's current 3 year contract with Constellation will expire soon. The new contract costs with Constellation are unknown, and there are other options with Colonial Power and others. We had a conference call with Colonial Power. The accounts involved need to be submitted to the potential providers, which we have. This agreement would have no impact on our aggregation project we have underway for our town. Once our contract expires, we have options to put in place for a short term contract while we evaluate our options. We will have options for Green energy sources as part of our contract. We will get a list of all potential vendors we should consider for the Town to review for the next contract from Colonial Power's recommended consultant
- 5. All committee members signed the code of conduct policy required by the Town of Becket, except for Garth. Garth, we have your forms and will share with you next month.

Next meeting November 15, 2018 at 9:30 am

Meeting adjourned at 11 am.

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Al Blake, Chair