

TOWN OF BECKET
ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: December 20, 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, Bob Markel

Absent: Bill Girard, Garth Klimchuk

1. Meeting called to order at 9:29.
2. Approved minutes of October meeting minutes. Bob Gross to issue the August meeting minutes once he finds 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.*

We are approved for the grant provided we can find a consultant. Chris Vreeland has a 3-4 month backlog. We need a consultant now. We have also spoken to Beth Greenblatt and 1 other consultant but have no commitment yet. Umass has also been helpful and will recommend an additional 2 consultants for us to potentially use. We hope for resolution of this soon so that the consultant's work is done in January. The planning board is meeting tonight to apply for a DLTA grant that can also help this effort.
 - 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 has been scheduled for January 22. The article revision for the solar bylaw is finished and will be voted on..*

- 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. Energy Audit report is in late January. The Energy Committee has been invited to participate in this review.
 - c. The Green Communities Grant does not cover solar PV projects. Al recommends that we begin an RFP for our solar PV project located on the town hall site. Bob stated he will begin this process in 2019.
 - d. We would like to participate in the Town newsletter. Bob has asked us for input for the January newsletter.
 - e. Status of current Green Communities Grant. *The remaining Green Communities grant items are complete. We need to have an inspection by Jim Barry. 6 new windows have been installed, the propane tank is now on site at town garage, the new window at the town garage needs to have electrical wires moved before this can be completed. Once the inspection is done, we can apply for additional Green Community grants in February.*
 - f. 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 so that 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. The contract for the town expired last month, so Bob decided to remain with Constellation Energy for at least 1 year.*
 - g. 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.*
- 4. *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.*
 - 5. U Mass municipal fuel use reduction through trialing telematics software would track and make recommendations for fuel efficiency. This is a free program.
 - 6. WRHS building project will potentially use ground source heat pumps rather than propane.

Next meeting January 17, 2018 at 9:30 am

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 am.



Al Blake, Chair