

TOWN OF BECKET

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: February 21, 2019

Time: 9:30 AM

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

In Attendance: Al Blake, Cathy DeFoe, Bill Caldwell, Bob Gross, Katherine Hoak, Bill Girard, visitors Maria Wallington and Susan Purser.

Absent: Garth Klimchuck

1. Meeting called to order at 9:30.
2. Approved minutes of January meeting.
3. Current business items:
 - a. Conference call with Colonial Power to discuss status of town aggregation program. More than half the municipalities in MA are part of an aggregation program. Becket has completed the preliminary documents to begin the community aggregation process. The discovery phase is our next step in this process. This includes a series of questions that need to be answered the DPU. The RFP will go out in the early spring. We expect to see the final stage in this process in the late summer. We will need to form a committee to manage this aggregation project sometime in the April time frame.
 - b. 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. 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. Per Bill, we received no bids for the PV solar field at the Town Hall. Al suspects that the language was too onerous and the size is too small to fit the new Smart program. Options are to increase the size of the project by using the roof on Town Hall and to re-write the bid. We have not yet spent all funds on the Meta Grant and the consultant we expect to hire with these remaining funds will hopefully help with the next step in this PV project.*
 - c. Status of engineering report for town hall heating/ac replacement. Bill is expecting this report next week.
 - d. E-Newsletter. We need to provide input to Beverly by the monthly deadline.
 - e. The Energy Audit lighting report is complete. Lighting conversion should be done at the town garage as well as the town hall for both interior and exterior fixtures. The payback will be completed over 2 years and the work will be done in the next few months.
 - f. Status of current Green Communities Grant. *The remaining Green Communities grant items are complete.* The designation grant documentation has been completed. The

competitive grant has opened up but Bill cannot complete this until the HVAC report is complete.

- 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.* Bob Gross spoke with the management at Jacob's Pillow about this and this project is on hold for them for now.
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. Nothing new on this topic, but we will keep this on the agenda.
6. New energy building codes are being established for MA for the next 3 year cycle. This applies to all new construction. The committee voted to support and fund the Town of Becket in this process. The fee is \$130. All members of the Energy Committee voted in favor of this. Bill Girard is currently a voting member.
7. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Planning Grant Opportunities. Our committee voted unanimously to support this program.
8. Al proposed that we change the meeting day and time to either Mondays or Thursdays afternoon or early evenings.

Next meeting March 21, 2019 at 9:00 am. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.



Al Blake, Chair