

DRAFT 1:

Deerfield Energy Resources Committee

Minutes of 10/23/14: 4:05PM

Present: M.A. Swedlund, Kristan Bakker, David Gilbert Keith, Jay Styker, Reenie Clancy,

1) Minutes Review: 9/18/14 Minutes:

- a) Amend at 2c. to read. "Town has grant money to implement 8 energy conservation measures."
- b) Fix Kristin to Kristan.
- c) Accepted as amended unanimously
- d) David agrees to take minutes today

2) Update on WWTP solar project:

- a) Subsequently Kristan and M.A. met with Keith Milne (head of WWTPs since Don Chappell retired) and Kevin Scarborough regarding recommendations for Energy Conservation Measures [ECMs].
- b) Keith sought clarification of need and criteria for grant ECMs. MA & Kristan clarified what such measures were and purpose. Replacement of doors would not qualify due to long payback (not about efficiency so much as rot and rust).
- c) Town appears to be moving forward on ECMs. People who need to know and act have the information.
- d) Kayce Warren sent email October 21, 2014 saying Kevin, Tom Schmitt, and Keith had met to discuss timeline.
- e) Timeline: Start 10/20/14 end January 16, 2015. Starting tomorrow (rain delay) they will bore holes to check soil consistency. Then drilling, pilings, conduit, wires, prepare building for hookup. Kevin will pass along more concrete timelines as they arrive from Schmitt.
- f) We will be told when ZBA process has been completed.

3) Landfill Solar Update:

- a) Kristan and M.A. got a tour of site with Kevin. Three separate plots with largest ~21.5 acres behind (north of) where landfill currently is. Landfill itself is 11.10 acres, 9.3 acres west of current transfer station. All are town owned, but separate lots on tax maps.
- b) It has become clear that there are two separate pieces to the project: first we can sign up with companies for Net Metering Agreements [NMAs] through which we can buy credits from other sites. Second, we can develop our landfill.
- c) M.A. recommends separating and waiting on development. Go ahead with NMA, wait on development. Lake, Synergy, and HCOG have each sent us information on NMA. NMA does not require ROI.

- d) Kristan says HCOG does not require such a long commitment as the others, but is not as “green” as they are. (Would just be a purchase agreement, not net metering.) Five year contracts would be to our advantage. Solare not enthusiastic. So for short term, savings count over “green.”
- e) If we can’t get a short-term contract from other companies, we should probably go with HCOG. Preserve our site until we are prepared to keep as much of the profit local as possible. HCOG as supplier can reduce cost, but HCOG can do 1 year contracts.
- f) Organizations interested in landfill development. Kayce got a call from a Wisconsin firm presenting their approach to community solar. Sounds attractive to look at models of community solar. SCOOP and COOP Power are also presenting community solar.
- g) There are differing models for solar developments: community solar and investor owned with power purchase agreements (PPA)
- h) Wisconsin company is Community Green Energy, LLC. David Thurnau, Lake Geneva, WI. Their model is community solar that tries to ensure local ownership and keeping the savings in the community. Thurnau can do a webinar presentation to us at our next meeting if we want. He says he is familiar with MA laws. Kristan made clear to Thurnau that Deerfield is not interested being the vendor. M.A. recommends we go ahead and set up the presentation.
- i) M.A.: as a reminder, ultimately we have to send out an RFP.
- j) Solare gave a presentation. They have not followed up with response to questions Kristan asked (e.g. if prices double in next ten years, we don’t save all that much). So Kristan asked about an escalator. Could he compare a twenty year outlook for 20% discount v. 2.5%/yr escalator. Savings with 20% would be \$1.023M over 20 yrs: with escalator would be \$1.577M, though that is only true if utility rates go up 4%/yr starting at \$0.10/kwh.
- k) Synergy is willing to go either with escalator or flat 20% savings. Not willing to go less than 20 year contract.
- l) M.A. says 20 year contract seems like a deal breaker at this point. Utility rates are changing too much.
- m) Kristan: Ideally we seem to need investor to help us pay for landfill development that will then let a community coop style of using the energy and savings.
- n) Lake Shore: 4MW, \$5.1 over the term of the contract. Lake gave more information than Synergy. Floor rate is \$0.08, discount for NMA, etc.
- o) M.A. went to COOP Power’s event. COOP Power has land at biodiesel site, thinking of solar array to help run biodiesel plant, but the rest to go to COOP members. They handed out financial info sheet (done by same person SCOOP just hired.)
- p) Key piece for individuals, cost per Net Metering Credit is \$1,171 per kW. Usual share is 5 kw, so 5 X \$1,171. Works out to \$1.17 per watt installed. Good price for putting on home is ~\$3.74, but COOP has already gotten rebates, SRECS, etc. M.A.: prices are better than anything anyone else is offering. COOP has no distribution charge: comes straight off your bill.

- q) SCOOP will get more numbers within a month.
- r) Kristan recommends we task Beth Greenblatt to do comparison charts, other presentations to make costs of each approach clear. Greenfield is doing something similar that Beth is working on, so she will already have the formats.
- s) Criteria: NMA comparisons. We should take PPA that could save us more. Then, if it is possible to develop the landfill, we need to get going while regulations are favorable. Need an agent (e.g.: Beth Greenblatt) for us as owners.
- t) Short term recommendation: check with Constellation v. HCOG and pick one. Then recommend Beth Greenblatt for other phase—development.
- 4) **Honors Society:** M.A.: 25 out of 30 kids signed up to work with energy committee of national honors society at Frontier to give presentations to Elementary school kids.
- 5) **Pipeline update:** Eaglebrook and DA were contacted.
- 6) **Next Meeting:** Would be Thanksgiving, so move to **November 20th**? Yes. Jay seconds, unanimous
- 7) **Adjourn** 5:45PM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

David Gilbert Keith