

MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY MARCH 20, 2013

6:00 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON

- I. Call to Order. 6:10 pm
Present: Beth Moser, Ryan Caruso, Brandee Nelson, Chris Vleck, Alana Chernila
Guests: Juliette and Tom Haas (They can be reached at juliettehaas@yahoo.com)

- II. Approval of Minutes from January 9 Meeting and February 13 Meeting; Ryan moved to approve as amended; Beth second. All approved.

- III. Solar Report Status – Forward to Select Board and Sustainability Meeting Group

Chris put a matrix together and some aerial photo on the municipal solar sites. The town dump parcel was removed from discussion, and the document was reorganized based on site priority. Chris will finalize and send to Kevin with cc to Alana and circulate to sustainability meeting participants.

- IV. Solarize Mass Grants – September deadline; identify coordinator; make recommendation to Select Board
 - Ryan checked with West Stockbridge, Stockbridge and Egremont and found only Egremont has a green/energy committee. Egremont has 935 homes, 1100 fulltime residents and 600 part time residents. According to the Haas's, the Town is familiar with program and may be interested in jointly pursuing the grant. As grant experience, Egremont has received ARRA funding for PV array. Several town buildings including a new police station and the water department building could have solar.

 - The committee discussed if Stockbridge might be interested in joining the application; Stockbridge's committee is led by Laura Debuester.

- Committee discussed the details for the requirements for the Solarize Mass – review criteria and discussed a need to know what resources must be committed by Town.
- Items for developing interest in the program include: schools participating in a contest to reach out to the community on the Solarize Mass program, sell t-shirts at Farmers Market, etc.
- Committee will review past applications for template and determine if the program is open to commercial, residential and municipal eligible in the program participants.

V. Open Discussion Items –

- Chris checked with Kevin on the Hampshire Council on Government (COG) for information regarding the power purchase agreement program (PPA) to aggregate the purchasing capacity of Great Barrington with other communities to achieve cost savings. Program is open to all forms of purchasing including supplies, as well as energy products.
- Discussed the Fairgrounds to possibly install solar. Committee members have heard from persons involved in the fairgrounds that there is a question of whether the Town is interested in purchasing solar energy if a system was installed. The Select Board is waiting for a formal proposal from the Fairgrounds.
- Check on windows in Housatonic School – are they broken and have they been repaired. According to Alana, the windows have been repaired.
- Sustainability committee seminar – Ryan and Chris to go on 4/24 and report back to committee.

VI. Next Meeting Date- Possible Agenda Items. Second Wednesday of each month discussed as possibility.

VII. Adjournment. Adjourned without objection at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brandee Nelson, Secretary