

DRAFT MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

6:00 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON FIRE STATION

37 STATE ROAD, GREAT BARRINGTON

- I. Call to Order. 6:10 pm Michele DiSimone, Beth Moser, Chris Vlcek, Brandee Nelson, Bart Elsbach
- II. Approval of Minutes from July 30 Meeting – Beth moved to approve minutes, Brandee 2nd, all voted in favor.
- III. Solarize Mass Grants/Guardian Energy – update - The Town Board identified Malcolm Fick as solar coach and Chris Rembold as municipal representative for the Solarize Mass Grant Application. MassCEC has not yet notified us of next funding round. Egremont, via Juliette Haas, is interested in going in on application with Great Barrington. Beth will coordinate.
- IV. Great Barrington Fairground – update. Bart Elsbach would like to put a solar array at the Fairgrounds and sell Great Barrington Town Facilities the power. According to Mr. Elsbach, solar regulations are proposed to be revised and he has discussed the changes with MassCEC (Clean Energy Center), Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and Senator Ben Downing, to trying to formulate an option where financial and electrical benefits stay in Great Barrington. Although, the politics don't currently support the change in regulations, he is investigating the possibility of local private equity funding the project. It is necessary for there to be an agreement from the Town or a Town entity for stability. Preliminarily they could get 2MW (megawatt) array on site which takes up 3-4 acres/MW on current technology. Bart would like the energy committee's positive recommendations for a solar array at Fairgrounds. He acknowledged the site is in floodplain and will require permits. He stated ultimately they hope to develop the fairgrounds into a multi-use property with agricultural uses beneath the solar and build in an educational component which fits with the Fairground mission. He has drafted suggested resolution which Select Board has adopted.

Chris mentioned the Town does not have substantial land available for its own solar array.

The committee offered the energy reduction plan, which is available on the Town's website, could be available to Mr. Elsbach as a resource since it has numbers on town facility's power consumption.

- V. Goals & Ideas – discussion – The Town Manager has asked the Boards and Committees to put together information on goals and ideas of the committee. Our current goals – implementation of green communities grant and related energy reduction plan, and pursuit of Solarize Mass grant.
- VI. Open Discussion Items - none
- VII. Next Meeting Date- Possible Agenda Items. Check October Tuesdays 1, 8, 15 Brandee will identify and email committee members.
- VIII. Adjournment. Without objection adjourn 6:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandee Nelson