

Lee Energy Committee Meeting Minutes December 5, 2017

Present: Sharon Meeker, Barbara Wauchope, Mary Woodward, Lou Grondin and Selectman Brown

Guests: Lee Sustainability Committee members Chuck Cox, Dean Rubine, Matt Rowell, Brian Giles, Paul Gasowski

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Planning aspects of the Dec 8 "State of Energy" Panel, co-sponsored by the Lee Sustainability Committee and the Lee Town Library, were discussed. Related to the required Trust of the Trustees approval to pay for the lighting enhancements with monies from the capital improvement fund, Sharon explained that they only need a simple analysis that demonstrates cost-saving. The suggestion was made to just use the example numbers provided by Joe Lajewski at NHEC, especially given that one of the bidders had commented that Joe's numbers seemed fairly accurate. Because the 2 electric bids have not yet arrived, Revision Energy, which now also does lighting upgrades, will be invited to submit a bid. It was clarified that the rebate amount should continue to be available next year, because the rebates come from the utility companies and are not dependent on any federal program. The group voted to proceed with the offshore-wind petition language and to seek 30 registered voter signatures to qualify its warrant article status on the March 2018 town ballot. Lou explained details of the solar proposal from Revision Energy, including the lease/purchase (after 6 years), the continuing rate options, and analysis that shows that the town would save approximately \$485,000 over 40 years irrespective of the option chosen by the town. Various members of the group expressed concern about federal and other subsidies that might disappear. Lou will check with Julie about whether a warrant article is also necessary for the project and whether there is time and sufficient information to present to the BOS as a prelude to placing the item on the March 2018 ballot if that path is required. In addition to the group's seeking input from Dec 8 panel members and others, especially related to ongoing operation and maintenance costs and issues, Mary will see what information is available from other towns that have installed solar. Sharon will tentatively schedule an LEC presentation at the Lee BOS Dec 18 meeting. Barb suggested that, to prepare for the BOS meeting, LEC members meet with Karen of Revision Energy next week to review outstanding issues/questions. Related to the door tests and energy efficiency/insulation needs at the Transfer Station and PCS, Lou also explained that he and others had gathered the background information required for the Resilient Buildings Group to proceed with their analysis. Resilient is investigating whether NHEC does door tests at no charge. For the Transfer Station roof, there are 2 options: simply remove the roof and insert rigid boards, then replace roof; or pump foam in. Resilient is gathering rebate information from Joe Lajewski and expect to submit their recommendations within a week's time. Lee Sustainability Committee members briefly joined the LEC group to discuss timing and ideas for 2018 sessions as follow-on to the December 8 education discussion. Suggested possible topics were: geothermal, battery/grid aspects of storage, electric vehicles, and biomass. Sharon invited everyone to send suggested topics and, when possible, the names of people knowledgeable on the topic(s).