

Lee Energy Committee Meeting Minutes March 21, 2019

Members present: Lou Grondin, Barb Wauchope, Mary Woodward

Guests: John Dunster, Revision Energy

The group met with John Dunster of Revision Energy for a special session to revisit and examine necessary steps to move forward within the framework of the solar array project previously approved by town vote in April 2018. Barb provided updated data on average annual electricity usage by building.

John updated the group on pending state legislation and other factors relevant to the project, including net metering policies, rates, and usage calculation; aspects of roof versus ground mount installation; project cost trends and factors, including trends in the allowed PPA-financing tax rate over coming years (over the next 3 years the benefit to impact investors who fund the solar projects will decrease); billing models and considerations; and the uptake in adoption of solar arrays by other New Hampshire towns, including summary performance results from installed systems. John

The group also explored scenarios related to Lee's 2-supplier situation (NHEC and Eversource), as well as questions related to the uncertainty, including timing, of any future new town center complex. Barb will contact NHEC to find out whether there are any available paths for a town to move to a single supplier for purposes such as a solar array installation with consolidated billing.

Consensus was to focus back on the Lee Transfer Station as the initial best locale for a system, related to which the group explored issues related to a combination of roof -and ground-mount installation to address the anticipated capacity needs.

The group then moved to the Transfer Station to discuss available ground locations with Toby Van Aken, including land clearing that would be necessary. The group agreed to take steps to plot the designated space so that bids for clearing the space can be obtained to determine any town budget implications that need to be explored with the Lee BOS. John will update the previous proposal and provide a preliminary design. The PPA agreement form has not changed in any material way, and thus should not require any significant further review.

Five NH towns have recently decided to move forward. Given that pending state legislation, if passed as anticipated in the next 3 months, might lengthen the queue, John explained the option of proceeding via a Letter of Intent framework as a possible placeholder approach. Currently the project wait-time is 120 days for roof-mount projects and 6 months for ground installations.