

Meeting Minutes *(approved 7-9-14)*
Wayland Energy Initiatives Advisory Committee
Tuesday, June 10, 2014
7:30 p.m.
School Committee Conference Room

Members present: Bill Huss, Tom Sciacca, Anne Harris, Ellen Tohn

Members Absent: Harvey Michaels

Ex-officio Member absent: John Moynihan

Also present:

Wayland residents: John Harper, Corinne Lenk, Kurt Tramposch

Minutes from 5-8-2014 not voted on as not all members had time to review.

Municipal Solar Projects

School Committee Review: Ellen and Tom reviewed the discussion at the 6-9-2014 School Committee meeting. They noted one resident raised questions as to Ameresco's financial strength, and one Committee member continued to raise questions about the procurement process. The Energy Committee noted the many projects successfully completed by Ameresco, including the landfill solar array in Sudbury, the vote of confidence in Ameresco by the many industry experts living in Wayland and expressed at Town Meeting, and that there is no financial risk to the town for the solar projects as no money is contributed by the Town. In addition, the procurement process has been reviewed and approved by the MAPC, DOER and Mark Lanza, Wayland Town Counsel. A vote was taken as to whether to authorize Dr. Stein to sign the Letter of Intent (draft as of 5/29/14) with Ameresco and passed 3-1.

Board of Public Works Review: Anne relayed the results of the 5/28/14 BoPW meeting, at which the Board reviewed the draft of the Letter of Intent and made two recommendations: to add the word "potential" to sites on line 5, page 1, and to add the words "outside of Zone 1 areas" to the Happy Hollow wells site description on the last line of the document. She sent the revised draft to Mike Lowery along with an email from Mark Lanza stating the document was "acceptable as to legal form" on 6/6/14. Also on 6/6/14 Mr. Lowery distributed to his Board a map obtained from the town GIS specialist locating the new wells, Zone 1 areas and capture zones. Anne and Bill will go in front of the Board on 6/11 and hope to obtain an approval to sign the Letter of intent.

Owner's Representative: Ellen mentioned to the School Committee that as an extra layer of expertise we could obtain an Owner's Agent to represent Wayland's interests when structuring solar projects. The Committee agreed we could benefit from an Owner's Agent to assist us with both technical and contractual issues as we review the projects proposed by Ameresco, and before bringing to Town Meeting for approval. Anne will look into whether the DOER advertisement for OATA (Owner's Agent Technical Assistance) funding could be used for both ESCO and solar funding. Funding for an OA could also be built into a Power Purchase Agreement with Ameresco.

Selectmen's Meeting scheduled for 6/16/14: Ellen will lead the discussion to bring the LOI to the Selectmen for a vote. (Other issues we will raise at that meeting are described further, below).

In preparation for the Selectmen's meeting, the following was moved: "The Energy Initiatives Advisory Committee recommends the Town sign a Letter of Intent with Ameresco to proceed with exploratory and development site work for potential municipal solar sites, accessing Ameresco through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council Energy Management Services procurement process". Vote: 4-0 in favor.

Discussion followed as to the Committee's decision to select Ameresco via the MAPC EMS procurement. The committee initially considered two vendors: Broadway Electric (selected by MAPC through its solar procurement process) and Sun Edison (selected through PowerOptions procurement). The Committee determined that Broadway was a better choice, when considering these two options (see minutes, 10/9/2013). Ameresco approached Wayland late in 2013 and requested the opportunity to present a proposal to the EIAC, under their EMS project. The committee agreed to review an Ameresco proposal, which was provided. The committee discussed both Broadway Electric and Ameresco in our December 11, 2013 meeting; the minutes note that "the committee felt either choice could be favorable"; the committee voted to proceed with Broadway at our December 11, 2013 meeting. After it was announced Broadway Electrical was dissolving, the Committee opted to interview and then select Ameresco under the EMS procurement, which also enables towns to contract with Ameresco for renewable energy services including solar.

MAPC recently announced that Blue Wave Capital LLC has been selected by MAPC replace Broadway in the solar procurement. The Committee discussed the opportunity to shift to work with Blue Wave Capital instead of continuing with Ameresco and felt that was not a prudent decision. The committee identified the following concerns about electing to proceed with Blue Wave:

1. Timing—we would be required to start over again. Timing with solar is an issue: incentives are limited. Our project can get in the interconnect queue faster.
2. Priority order—Wayland would be in the "back of the line", as many towns are farther along in their solar projects.
3. Financing – Blue Wave is a significantly smaller company than Ameresco with much less capacity and experience financing projects than Ameresco.
4. Fewer completed projects.

New Energy Committee Liaison to Board of Selectmen:

Ellen has been working with our new Committee liaison, Cherry Karlson, who has updated the Energy Committee charge, primarily to allow the Committee to appoint temporary associate members to assist us with projects in which they have expertise. She also will recommend making the Committee permanent, as our current charge from 2009 expires at the end of June, 2014, and assigning a term to each member. Ellen reviewed all the topics the Energy Committee will bring to the Selectmen:

- o Letter of Intent with Ameresco, hoping to obtain approval to proceed--Ellen
- o Revised charge to Energy Committee, assigning terms, making permanent—Cherry
- o Review status of ESCO project, still in contract stage--Ellen
- o Status of energy baseline documentation and reconciliation with warrant - Anne

Energy Improvements Project with Ameresco (ESCO)

Ellen reviewed status; Beth Greenblatt of Beacon Integrated Solutions reviewed the Ameresco/MAPC contract and recommended we use the template she developed. She worked with John Moynihan to provide a draft to Ameresco. Their legal counsel is reviewing and will then contact the Town's counsel.

As described in solar section, the Selectmen have requested that we provide baseline energy data to them in advance of the Energy Improvements Project, as well as that the town reconcile that data with the utility budget figures in the warrant (which include water, sewer, telephone). Anne has started to work with Cherry on this. While we feel we have good data on energy usage (natural gas, electric, oil, propane), tracked by Mass Energy Insight, we have not focused on costs, as DOER grants and Green Community goals are based on usage decreases. Anne met with Brian Keveney, Finance Director, and Maggie Meehan, Facilities Administrative Assistant, to understand cost tracking on MUNIS, from which the budget and warrant figures are compiled. While it appears the School Department tracks costs by building, the town side does not, making this a large scale project that goes beyond energy usage. Some on the Committee feel this goes beyond the scope of the energy committee into accounting areas. Ellen suggested she and Anne conference with Cherry to pin down what is needed/wanted before going further.

Owner's Agent Technical Assistance funding (OATA): The DOER just announced a round of OATA funding; applications can be submitted starting August 1. We will certainly submit an application for OATA for the Energy Improvements project. In the past, DOER has allowed towns to request funding for either solar or energy efficiency projects but not both. Anne will ask DOER if we could do both.

Green Communities Grant Application

DOER is still reviewing applications; asked for supplemental information recently on the Middle School EMS system which Ameresco provided.

LED Streetlight Pilot-NStar

On 5/22/14, NStar representatives Mark Rooney and Charlie Tavares met with Energy Committee members and John Moynihan. NStar informed us the pilot went well from their perspective but as they had no rate for LED they could do no further installation until the 2016 rate application. Members expressed disappointment in that we understood the entire town could be converted as a pilot project. NStar responded that was not what they were told. Committee members will follow up with their NStar contacts to see if there are other options.

Community Power Aggregation

Bob Mercier forwarded Ellen a presentation on Community Power Aggregation given to him by a resident whose company performs that. The Committee agreed that we endorsed the idea of allowing residents and businesses to group together to negotiate better utility rates, but felt that the energy saving projects we are pursuing at this time will yield more savings to the town and we will concentrate on those.

Community Resilience Grant

The Mass Department of Energy Resources has posted a grant opportunity to encourage towns to develop renewable energy solutions to develop resilience in the face of power interruptions due to increased storms and climate change. The deadline for grant applications for technical assistance or project implementation is July 15. Anne had notified CERT and Transition

Wayland, but no projects were currently being considered. The Committee felt a small project, like a battery backup for (proposed) Middle School solar panels might be a possibility. While the Committee felt they did not have the bandwidth, resident Corinne Lenk offered to explore possibilities. Anne will contact Sudbury to see if they would consider a joint application, and Ameresco to see if they have done pricing on battery backup for any other towns.

Miscellaneous

Anne mentioned John Moynihan negotiated a two year electric rate with NStar of \$.10015, up from \$.0695 for the past three years.

The Committee agreed the next meeting will be after the Selectmen's meeting on June 16. Anne will post. Subsequent meeting will be July 9.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

ARH 6/15/14