

Energy Committee Minutes
10/15/2020

Present: Vance Bell, Dawn Bower, Bill Dunkel, Tom Johnson, Michael Simonds

Meeting Opened at 4:35 PM via Zoom

Vance moved to adopt the minutes of the September 17 meeting; seconded by Michael; unanimously adopted.

Bill updated the committee on the status of our community solar project on Michael's property.

- Green Lantern and other solar developers are not very interested in medium sized community solar projects (narrow profit margins).
- Ralph Meima skeptical about coop model for community solar because:
 1. Unclear asset ownership; no assets to be sold if bankruptcy occurs
 2. No way to easily raise money
 3. Banks not eager to make loans to them
- Coop Power is questionable at the moment.
 1. Meima questions their viability
 2. Clay Turnbull waiting to talk with Lynn Bernander, their CEO
- Can a new non profit, non-cooperative model be created for community solar? Can a new business model for scalable community solar be created? Long talk on 9/30 with Ralph Meima; pull together people from GMP, banking & private equity, state legislature (perhaps), and non profit & for profit corporations for brainstorming conference; waiting for Ralph to deliver a purpose statement and list of possible attendees.
- Bill had a video conference call with Ned O'Rourke (Wardsboro energy committee chair) and Bruce Fruman (Londonderry energy committee member) recently. Ned reported on possible large scale solar project in Wardsboro. It might be possible to include our project with theirs. Syncarpha Capital & Solar would be owner and developer. Could there be other medium sized projects connected to E. Jamaica substation? O'Rourke will connect us with Rich Turnure, who may want to check out Michael's site.

Tom gave a Meeting House weatherization update. Tom told Tom Widger that our energy committee has funds we could donate for weatherization. Meeting House Committee not sure where to get additional funds. Dawn thinks additional permission may be needed for a weatherization project because the building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bill reported that it was very difficult to install a Tyz-all interior window covering in his house; very hard to get the plastic into the spline. Michael volunteered to help him install a second window. Marcia Clinton has purchased two Tyz-all kits and will let us know how her installation goes. Bill will check with Peter Bergstrom (Rockingham energy committee) on his experience with Tyz-all. Ned O'Rourke mentioned another window weatherization product called Climate Seal.

Bill reported on recent activities of the Londonderry and Wardsboro energy committees. They have invited us to collaborate with them on issues of mutual interest. Do we want to cooperate with them on making a series of "neighbors helping neighbors" videos? Would we want to develop an EC website like Wardsboro has? Do we want to try to raise funds for a 2021-22 Window Dressers build with Wardsboro and Londonderry? (Apply for a grant through the New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund?) We discussed this and agreed that, in general, we are interested in working collaboratively with both the Wardsboro and Londonderry energy committees. We are not ready to commit to the video project. It is premature to apply for funds for a 2021-22 Window Dressers build. Ned has extended an open invitation to attend the Wardsboro EC meeting on October 27.

Michael volunteered to check with Ellen McDuffie about the deadline for the December issue of the *News & Notes*. Michael may be able to submit an article about the possible community solar project on his land.

Bill mentioned that Efficiency Vermont and a private company called 3E Thermal provide weatherization assistance for landlords. We will look into possibly doing a future article about this, or perhaps sending information directly to Windham landlords, if the town has a list of rental properties.

The next meeting of the Energy Committee is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 19, at 4:40 PM, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Dunkel