

Energy Committee Minutes  
11/19/20

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

Meeting began at 4:31 via Zoom.

We postponed acting on the minutes of our October 15th meeting.

Michael updated everyone on the gathering at his property this past Monday during which Jonathan Nelson and Ned O'Rourke assessed the site. They, along with Michael and Bill, also met with Sue Brown to look at her land on Chase Road as a possible site for an array. Jonathan and Ned seemed quite interested in Michael's site and hope that it, and the larger project in Wardsboro, can be ready for construction by next spring or summer. Next steps are to have GMP certify that the electrical lines along Old Cheney Road can handle the load and for Jonathan Nelson to work out the financing of the project. Sue Brown's possible project is not connected at this time with these other two projects.

Bill and Michael updated the committee on the West River 100% Renewable Core Team meeting that they attended on 11/17. They agreed that if Michael's project with Jonathan Nelson becomes a reality, they will work with us to try to find offtakers. The W.R. Core Team decided to not accept a proposal from Co-op Power to work with them to create a community solar cooperative to develop the array on Michael's property. The main reason for this decision was that no one has the time to join the Board of Directors that would manage the project. Kim Friedman is preparing an RFP to see if solar developers would be interested in working with the West River group to try to identify and develop multiple medium sized community solar projects in our area of Vermont. We, the Windham Energy Committee, agreed that if this comes to fruition we will try to find Windham property owners who may want to lease their land for a solar array. We also will try to find offtakers for such projects.

Bill updated the group on his recent conversation with Ralph Meima. Ralph indicated that the solar project on the site of the old talc mine on White Road may be in play again. He also is continuing to work on organizing a brainstorming charette to explore the possibility of creating a new non-profit business model for community solar projects.

Tom and Dawn gave an update on the Meeting House. The Meeting House Committee plans to apply for a Historic Preservation Grant. The application deadline has been extended until February. Grant funds could be used for exterior grading and for alterations to the building to comply with fire codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Dawn reported that the Friends of the Meeting House committee may try to raise funds for weatherization improvements. If that occurs, Energy Committee funds could be used to enhance that work.

Everyone was urged to think about a possible article from our committee for the next issue of the *News & Notes*.

The next meeting of the Energy Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, at 4:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42PM.