

Windham Energy Committee Minutes
12/17/20

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

Guests: from Wardsboro Energy Committee: Ned O'Rourke, Jeff Young
from West River 100% Renewables: Clay Turnbeul, Mike McAssey
Jonathan Nelson (solar developer)

Meeting opened at approximately 4:35PM

After introductions, Michael gave a brief overview of the proposed project on his land. Jonathan Nelson added additional information. By Monday 12/21, Jonathan will complete the interconnection application that must be filed with Green Mountain Power. He is working with Michael Butler at GMP. We should know by Jan. 1, 2021 if the application is approved. Jonathan is worried that GMP may want several thousand dollars more to upgrade the transmission lines or make other hardware upgrades. He is eager to complete the full application process for a Certificate of Public Good by the end of January in order to qualify for the higher community solar electricity price of 16cents/KW. The price will be reduced by several cents after 1/31/21.

Ned gave an overview of the solar project being planned on the Kleppner family's land in Wardsboro. The latest estimate is that it will be in the range of 500 KW (AC) and that the Kleppner and Simonds projects combined will generate about 650 to 700 KW of power. Although it is not necessary to have a school or municipality as an offtaker, Rich Turnure of Syncarpha Capital would prefer that. Syncarpha is interested in owning and financing the project but has not yet made a formal commitment to do so. The project in Wardsboro will need a letter from the Wardsboro Select Board or the Windham Regional Commission designating the Kleppner land and a preferred site for a solar array. A wetlands study must be completed and an interconnection application must be filed and approved. Then a lease must be negotiated between the developer and the landowner, and a permit filed for a CPG. It may take several more months to jump through all these hoops. Once all of that has been completed, the West River 100% Renewables group and the Windham Energy Committee can begin to solicit offtakers for the projects. The hope is to begin construction in the spring.

Ned mentioned that the Wardsboro EC was meeting at 6:00 PM this same evening (12/17) to discuss the project with Rich Turnure of Syncarpha Capital, several members of the Wardsboro Select Board and other interested members of the community. We all were invited to attend their meeting.

After this part of the agenda was completed, our guests left the meeting and the remaining members of the Windham EC unanimously approved the minutes of the October 15th meeting (motion by Michael, seconded, by Vance) and the November 19th meeting (motion by Michael, seconded by Tom).

The meeting then adjourned at approximately 5:45PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Dunkel