**Solar Panel Energy Meeting**

March 12, 2018

Town Meeting House

Ralph Mima green Lantern group

Vance Bell – energy committee

Bill Dunkel – energy committee

Meeting was called to order at 6:35

Committee working for over a year on the project

Handout distributed to attendees

Ralph introduced himself – he represents the southern section counties of VT –gave overview of his involvement with Green Lantern Group – his background is in academia, he was on Brattleboro energy committee for aprox. 5 years. Ralph gave history of Green Lantern Group and how he got involved.

Green Lantern is basically Solar based projects. They have done over 60 projects in over 50 towns in VT.

They only work in VT. They review the whole development of the project before moving forward.

He discussed Net Metering and explained how it works to the attendees the process from the beginning – through design of project, permitting and all other involved, interacting with all local and state government. They also construct the arrays.

Most of their projects are large projects with one or two net metering customers who sign aggrement to accept to reduce their electric bill.

Solar panels are low maintenance, life cycle is between 25/30 years – 150 kilowatt array is what is proposed for Windham.

Community solar – different financing piece

Rockingham 500 kilowatt array, credits go to Mount Snow, electric bill is reduced by aprox. $20,000 a year for MS due to Net Metering.

Windham specifically – Ralph attended an energy meeting and spoke with bill – first location was not acceptable for a solar project – Ralph has attended a few energy and Select Board meetings over the past year. The location in sight for this project is by the town cemetery.

Ralph took questions thus far:

Question about tarif asked about – in relationship to panels from china, where does these panels come from? Canada, japan, us, and a few other countrys – 30% tariff for panels. It can take a year in VT or more to get through the permitting process alone. Actual cost of panels have started to drop somewhat –

How many acres to the property 8.19 acres, much of which is wetland – aprox. 2 acres of flat land that could be used Bill responded.

Ralph went into presentation with graphic/layout on screen – showing location of array from an ariel view - - would not need to cut trees, array would be well hidden.

Community solar array is not large – 50 – 150 kilowats, small panels – ¼ to 1/3 of net metering service a local facility such as a school – public can buy into a community array which would benefit the homeowner and reduce electric and tax credit benefits.

Question – investment model, who are investors and how much is invested? How does the model work – who gets credits. Ralph – responded and explained the various investors and how the public could also be investors and buy wattage - he used Newfane project as example

Renewal energy credits/certificates (REC’s)– Ralph went on to explain how they work in relationship to the project.

Ralph made himself available after the meeting if anyone has questions or want him

Bill asked Ralph about future burials – enough room to bury for a few century’s without the solar array interfering with the cemetery.

Ernie – questioned the 8 acres that the town owns, they pointed out the acreage from the map on the screen

Access to the array was asked, they would have to build a road, gravel

Question asked about how electricity would be received from panels, location of boxes was asked – Ralph pointed out potential locations

Maureen asked about the kilowatts and how much would be produced – Ralph went on to explain what this array would produce –

Lifetime of solar panels asked – 20 – 25 years, maintenance cost low

Radiation – do they produce any – radiation footprint sparky asked this question – is there any history with this – Ralph, never identified as health hazard. Power output very small.