

**TOWN OF BECKET
ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 21, 2023, 4 PM
Minutes**

In attendance (via Zoom): Garth Klimchuk (Chairman), Al Blake, Bob Gross, Cathy DeFoe, Susan Purser (Secretary), Katherine Warden (Town Administrator), Marc Schultz (Becket Resident)

1. Call meeting to order at 4:01pm
2. Approved minutes of January 17, 2023 meeting – Susan, Al, Garth
3. Wind Project Status – Garth is preparing to submit the Eversource interconnection application again now that he has received the one-line drawing. He will inquire about using the previous submission instead of starting a new one. Cathy D. offered to assist in the application.
4. META Grant Follow up – Kathe W. reported that she was still awaiting a decision on the META grant application. Cathy D. stated she had spoken with the site assessment consultant and she is still available in the Spring or Summer if the META grant gets approved.
5. Community Solar Opportunity – Al will research status of community solar usage for town electricity and pass it on to Kathe W. (With community solar, a person can power a percentage of their home electricity with low-cost clean energy and support green energy.)
6. Annual Information Session Planning – A potential date was identified as Saturday, 8/26/23. It will be a hybrid event at Town Hall. Garth will introduce the speakers and moderate the event. Possible guest speakers could include the new DOER Regional Coordinator, someone from Colonial Power (re aggregation), local heat pump contractors, CET and BCAC. Other possible topics could include the results from the wind/solar assessment and broadband update. It was suggested that the new Green Community committee from Washington be invited to attend (but not as a speaker). Al will contact BCAC, Cathy D. will talk with Mark Levernoch, Garth will contact R.J. to see if the date is convenient for them. The DOER rep., Colonial Power and CET are yet to be contacted. The meeting room needs to be reserved.

7. Aggregation – The Town’s participation in this group buying program has kept electricity rates much lower than Eversource’s recent rate increases. Our three year aggregation contract with Colonial Power finishes at the end of the 2023. Kathe W. stated she had recently gotten signing authority from the BOS in order to authorize another aggregation contract on March 1st.

Colonial Power will be sending out aggregation letters to 154 Becket residents who either opted out or who moved here recently. These residents will be enrolled unless they opt out.

Al mentioned that there was another aggregation contract he knew of for the Town of Becket covering municipal power through the company, Constellation. Kathe W. will look into this contract.

8. Green Communities Update - Kathe W. mentioned that she had submitted the Green Community report. She will circulate it to the committee.

Al mentioned that the Green Community grant deadline is coming up in April. Do we want to submit an application for a police vehicle or other project? The committee members seemed to decide to wait until the October application deadline instead.

9. Upgrading Street Lights – Following the assessment of all the street lights by Al Blake, Bob Gross and Bill Elovirta, the BOS has given approval for Eversource to start upgrading the street light bulbs and putting “red caps” (black out feature to see if needed) on some poles. This should result in significant savings for the Town. During the assessment, it was noticed that three or four of the lights were billed through Dynergy or Colonial Power which is unusual.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 21st, 2023, 4 PM, via Zoom. Susan and Bob will not be able to attend. Al will call in to the meeting. Cathy D. will kindly take notes.

Adjourned at 4:45pm.

DocuSigned by:

Garth Klimchuk, Chairman
