

TOWN OF BECKET
ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date November 17, 2020
Minutes

In Attendance (All via Zoom): Al Blake, Garth Klimchuk, Bill Caldwell, Katherine Hoak, Susan Purser, Cathy DeFoe, Bob Gross, Dan Parnell.

Absent: Chris Swindlehurst.

NOTE: we need to take a roll call to accept minutes or any other vote.

1. Meeting called to order at 4:09 pm.
2. Approved meeting minutes from October 20, 2020. Susan, Katherine, Garth, Al, Bob all approved.
3. Current business items:
 - a. Status of town HVAC replacement. All the furnaces and vent pipes have been installed. The project is close to completion with only minor details to be finished. Our thanks goes to Bill for all his work on this important project. *This project has been completed. This topic will be removed from our agenda until next year's potential heat pump installations.*
 - b. Discussion on town wind option. The potential for solar has been exhausted for the immediate future. Garth did research into various wind energy companies and reviewed the Town's wind bylaws. He spoke with the Bergey Windpower Company who have two models that fit Becket's bylaws requiring that the structure's maximum height be 200 feet or less. Garth will ask Bergey about doing a wind analysis for the Town. Other concerns include the issues of set backs and abutters. Bill will get the past electric bills in order to determine energy usage for the various town buildings, particularly Town Hall. Other wind companies to be contacted include Hudson Valley Wind and DA Solar. Al suggested that DA Solar is a broker that might be useful in the future. *Garth has not*

been able to connect with DA. He was able to contact Bergey in Pine Plains, NY for potential use at the Town Hall. He has experience with installation of a 30,000 Kw yearly production for an estimated cost of approximately \$100,000 installed. Bill will provide the Town Hall's power bills. This unit would fall within our current by-laws for wind turbine construction. Garth is also working with them on our site's wind analysis. This is very exciting news!

- c. Status of Mass Save energy audits on municipal buildings. The deadline has been extended to August. Green Comm is waiting for an incentive letter from Eversource regarding how much they will cover of the new heat pumps at the two fire stations. *The 2 heat pumps and insulation at our 2 fire stations projects is in process.*

Al contacted Rita Furlong regarding an energy audit at the Mullen House but she did not want to pursue that issue. It is still unclear who is responsible for the building maintenance or pays the bills. *Cathy contacted Rita and shared her contact information with Home Energy Advisors. Cathy will follow up with Rita to see where she stands with this project.*

- d. Aggregation.

Announcements & Meetings for Becket Municipal Aggregation
Colonial Power advises us that Becket needs to have a meeting of all interested town participants to explain the options in late November or early December at the latest. After the meeting, paperwork will be sent out to the public. People who want to opt out or who want the greener option, must respond back. Those not responding will be put in the low cost option by default. The low cost option is cheaper than Eversource. The first bill will go out in January. *Notification will go out to all residents of Becket about this project. We need to put information on our website. We also need to plan for 2 Zoom meetings, 1 during the evening and 1 during the day preferably on the weekend. Colonial Power will lead most of the discussion and will set this up via Zoom. Al will meet with Bill about what to put on the website tomorrow. Susan suggested that the Social Media announcement provided by Colonial provided appropriate details. Colonial Power will also send a direct mailing explaining this program*

to all on the tax role. Al will send email publication to Cathy for distribution through the Library e-newsletter. Low income Becket residents currently get a \$0.36 discount on their power bill. They will likely not participate in this program.

- e. Annual Report Input – We worked as a group to complete the annual report for the Energy Committee for the Town’s annual report.*
- f. Home Works Energy has approached Al to form a relationship with us to promote the Mass Save program in Becket. We will explore this offer and add it to our agenda for the future.*

Next meeting 12/15 at 4pm via Zoom. Adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Approved on December 15, 2020

Al Blake, Chair