

TOWN OF BECKET  
**ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date: May 18, 2018

Location: Becket Town Hall, Becket Room

557 Main Street, Becket

In Attendance: Al Blake, Katherine Hoak, Bill Girard, Bob Gross, Cathy DeFoe, Garth Klimchuk

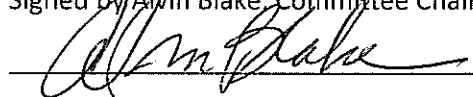
Absent: Dan Parnell

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:45
2. The minutes of the meeting on April 20, 2018 were reviewed and approved.
3. Discussion with Coop Power
  - a. Isaac sent a revised solar proposal to avoid positioning this 0.5 acre 110 kW 130,000 kWh array on the leach field. This would be a Community Solar project. The newest SMART program launch date is estimated to roll out between July and Sept 15 of this year. It will be more economical for users if they are part of the new SMART program. Coop power would do the marketing targeted for Becket residents only, should we decide to limit the lease options of this Community Owned Solar project.
  - b. A solar array on the town hall roof is also an option. The roof mounted system is cheaper to install and more pleasing to the eye. We could potentially combine the roof and ground mounted arrays to get a larger system. The Pavilion is too far away to be an economical portion of this project. We would need to run a conduit under the pavement to combine the two systems. The roof system could provide an additional 30 kW to the system.
  - c. We would need to sign a lease with Coop power to get started and begin the permitting process. Isaac believes we would get owners for the system signed up fairly quickly to this relatively rare ownership opportunity.
  - d. Coop Power would use a commercial 72 cell panel Canadian Solar or LG manufacturer at a lower cost for our proposed system. There would be 320 - 340 watts per panel. The Solar Edge Inverter will likely be used with 1 optimizer for every 2 panels. At age 13, these inverters tend to become less effective. Installers PV squared or Sun Bug are preferred. All Energy Solar is another preferred installer.
  - e. Ownership can be sold if the homeowners move out of the area.
  - f. There would be very little upfront costs to the Town of Becket for this project - potentially just some legal costs.

- g. Isaac will send us an updated proposal to include the roof as well as the ground mounted array. We would then need to present this to the Select board to move to the next step. The next BOS meeting is in early June.
  - h. Al will discuss this Community Solar option with Bob Markel to verify that we will have the right information for the BOS project review.
- 4. We are planning the annual energy forum 9/8/18 at 10 am. Al provided a proposed agenda for this session. Al will modify the flyer for the tax mailer by early June.
- 5. We do have current contracts between Constellation and Becket. They are due to be renewed in October, so we need to proceed with this soon.
- 6. Municipal aggregation with opt out provision discussed
  - a. Approved at previous ATM
  - b. Al will contact BOS to get their approval to proceed.
  - c. Will need to issue RFP to get proposals – Bob Markel will do this.
- 7. Green Community grant
  - a. Remaining funds are expected to be spent on Highway Dept. Bldg and include a new heating unit, propane tank and windows.
  - b. We need to plan for subsequent new projects in order to apply for new grant
  - c. We expect the next project will be Town Hall HVAC
  - d. Dan to determine if we can ask for a RFQ or RFP and not undertake an initial engineering study.
- 8. A new pilot program called Solar Access is available for lower income households. There is no easy way to share this information with our community. This is financed by CET. We will ask Jim Barry to incorporate this with his presentation at our Info Session.
- 9. Next meeting 6/21/18 at 9:30 am. Note New Day!

Cathy DeFoe, Secretary

Signed by Alvin Blake, Committee Chair

 Chair 6/21/18 Date