

TOWN of BECKET
ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Date: January 21, 2016

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Becket Town Hall—Becket Room

557 Main Street, Becket

Present: Robert Gross, Cathy DeFoe, Katherine Hoak, Al Blake, Garth Klimchuck (on phone), Ed Gibson

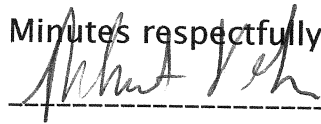
1. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 by Garth; Cathy seconded it.
2. The Minutes of Oct. 22, 2015 were approved by Bob, seconded by Al, unanimously approved.
3. Current Business Items
 - a. Community Solar: this project has not moved forward of late. Net Metering (Solar bill): Gov. Baker wants an Omnibus bill to include all forms of energy. There is a higher probability of such a bill bogging down. This is evidence of the government cow-towing to the utility companies whose pitch is the additional costs of utilizing solar, wind, etc.
-All bills have to be out of committees by March 19th. It is important to put pressure on State leaders of the legislature by both the Energy Committee and the Board of Selectmen. We should urge the Board to send a letter similar to that sent by the Brookline Selectmen to the Hon. Stanley C. Rosenberg, Senate President, and the Hon. Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker of the House (there were many CCs, including to the Governor.) It acknowledges that the Commonwealth leads the nation in energy efficiency and renewable energy, and understands that a balanced, long-term energy plan with a range of energy sources to provide safe, efficiency and uninterrupted energy delivery is essential if we are to maintain and improve our economic growth. It then delves into the many specifics involved with such an energy plan. All members approved of asking the Board to also send such a letter.
-Seth is to find if there are other possibilities of location for a Community Solar. Washington will probably join us in this proposed project.
 - b. Town Hall Solar: multiple paths could be taken.

1. roof of town hall and multiple other buildings
2. roof of town hall & pavilion
3. property (leechfield, ground-mounted)

Ed will put the estimated dollar amount for the roof into the capital budget. An architectural plan will be needed because of the cracking in vertical shingles on the roof. The gutter needs to be increased four downspouts. Both insulation and ventilation need to be addressed. Proposing warrants are needed for the next step to solar on the roof.

- c. Heat pump program is up in the air.
4. New items
 - a. Aggregation: Becket may want to look into this, other sources of electricity for its citizens. According to Ed, this is more of a political football than a practical one. A requirement of aggregation is that all residents must be included, but residents can opt out of it. Bob will write a letter for the Board of Selectmen to encourage their looking into aggregation. This matter would need to be voted on at a town meeting. Bob so moved and Cathy seconded it. All approved.
 - b. Green Community Act: we need to decide what is needed for us to do in order to be in compliance with it. It involves heat & air conditioning at town hall. We need to get a 20% energy savings. This is currently being evaluated. Hopefully, it'll be done before the town meeting. Being considered are pellets, heat pumps & outside compressors, which includes aesthetics & quietness.
5. Cathy made a motion to adjourn at 10:50 and Bob seconded it. All approved.
6. February 18th will be the next meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katherine Hoak, Secretary



VIC Chair

3/3/16

Date