

TOWN OF BECKET  
ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: January 17, 2019  
Time: 9:30 AM  
Location: Becket Town Hall Becket Room  
557 Main Street, Becket

In Attendance: Al Blake, Cathy DeFoe, Bob Markel, Garth Klimchuk, visitors Maria Wallington and Amy Perlmutter

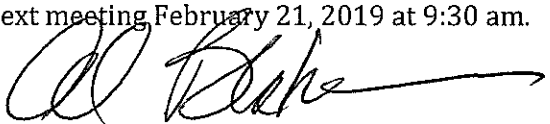
Absent: Bill Girard, Bob Gross, Katherine Hoak

1. Meeting called to order at 9:30.
2. Approved minutes of December meeting.
3. Current business items:
  - a. Discuss use of town properties for solar
    - i. *META grant status– Bob has completed the documents to receive the grant and the select board has approved it as well. Bob Markel is providing a statement of work to be considered for this consultant role. We have a solar PV project consultant proposal from Resident Energy for \$9000 as a reference for total expected costs. The consultant fees for the air source heat pump systems need to be funded as well. When we receive the grant, Bob recommends that the Energy Committee make a recommendation on the consultant and then review this with the Selectboard.*

The State of MA has also been helpful and recommended 2 consultants for us to potentially use. The MA CEC staff member River Strong has found 2 different individuals that may be able to consult on this work.
    - ii. *Solar by-law Changes – The recently amended solar by law changes approved at the May 2018 ATM are in conflict with the Green Communities Act. At least one solar ground mounted system array of 250 kW or greater cannot require a special permit. We need to amend this by law at the a Special Town Meeting potentially in November. It is critical that this by law issue be resolved prior to applying for future grants that could be used for the town hall HVAC system. . The new language has been approved by Jim Barry and the Berkshire Regional Planning committee. This must be passed before the next round of grants or prior to the end of January.*
    - iii. *Status of special town meeting – This has been scheduled for January 22. The article revision for the solar bylaw is finished and should pass.*
  - b. *Status of town hall heating/ac replacement. We are waiting to hire the consultant to review options for the system as well as how to fund it. Bob would like to have someone ready to provide a recommendation for the town on the heating system as soon as possible. Our current oil tank is getting water infiltration and could potentially be replaced as part of the back up system for an air source heat pump system.*

- c. The Energy Audit lighting report is complete. Lighting conversion should be done at the town garage as well as the town hall for both interior and exterior fixtures.
  - d. *The Green Communities Grant does not cover solar PV projects. Al recommends that we begin an RFP for our solar PV project located on the town hall site. COMMBUYS is the state's second on line system for posting bids. Bob has submitted our RFP on the proposed ground mounted system adjacent to the town hall to all companies registered in this system. The RFP went out to 151 different providers for a 25 Kw system. Bob will send the committee a copy of this RFP.*
  - e. We would like to participate in the Town newsletter. The committee will decide when next to submit updates to this monthly newsletter.
  - f. Status of current Green Communities Grant. *The remaining Green Communities grant items are complete.* New windows have been installed in firestation #2. During the installation of this window, extensive repairs needed to be done. Jane Fister will send Bob a form to complete to close out the Green Communities designated Grant. We still need to have the inspection by Jim Barry on 1/31/19 at 10 am while the new Town Administrator is available. The competitive grant work for the next round of Green Communities grants will begin in February.
  - g. Status of town aggregation program - *We need to set up a subcommittee of our Energy Committee member(s) and others to do the support needed for our community aggregation hopefully to take place next summer. The contract for the town expired last month, so Bob decided to remain with Constellation Energy for at least 1 year. Bob feels we will be ready to begin the community aggregation program by the ATM in May. Colonial Power is our broker for this community aggregation program. Al proposed that we set up a subcommittee to make decisions as needed for this program in the early spring.*
  - h. Discussion of Jacob's Pillow pursuing community solar – *there appears to be an ongoing project review between Jacobs Pillow and Coop Power. Jacob's Pillow is spending the majority of their time and effort on their capital plan for building and grounds. We are still waiting for them to respond to this potential project.*
- 4. *All committee members signed the code of conduct policy required by the Town of Becket, except for Garth. Garth, we have your forms and will share with you next month.*
  - 5. *U Mass municipal fuel use reduction through trialing telematics software would track and make recommendations for fuel efficiency. This is a free program. Nothing new on this topic, but we will keep this on the agenda.*
  - 6. *WRHS building project will potentially use ground source heat pumps rather than propane. There is considerable push back on the cost of this system.*

Next meeting February 21, 2019 at 9:30 am. Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.



Al Blake, Chair