

**TOWN OF BECKET**  
**ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 18, 2022, 4 PM

**Minutes**

In attendance (via Zoom): Garth Klimchuk, Al Blake, Cathy DeFoe, Bob Gross, Katherine Hoak, Susan Purser, Bill Caldwell. Guests: Joe Mitchell, Community Resources and Matt Secovich, Senior Executive, Distribution (Interconnection) Group of Eversource.

Absent: Dan Parnel (Exofficio)

1. Call meeting to order at 4:00pm.
2. Approved meeting minutes of December 21, 2021 meeting.
3. Current Business Items:

Status of wind turbine installation process

The committee met with Joe Mitchell and Matt Secovich of Eversource to discuss the interconnection process for our proposed municipal wind turbine project. Matt outlined the process of applying for interconnection between the wind turbine and the Eversource power line on the street as follows: a) one goes to the Power Portal to access the application, b) fill out the application and include engineering drawings and fee. Eversource will do an initial technical review and decide what is needed to move forward. If Eversource deems project to be complicated, it may carry out a study but that is unlikely for our small 15kw project.

Garth asked about the export process where the energy is sent to the power lines and the Town is reimbursed for the power. Matt stated there may be a need for a small expedited study to look at available capacity on the 3-phase line in front of town hall. Matt recommended we check the Eversource Hosting Capacity Map to see if the 15kw can be accommodated. Otherwise, we may need to look for another site in town where capacity is available. The connection from the turbine to the power line is done “behind” a meter on Town Hall (Circuit 19J3). The Town pays the full cost of fees and transformation.

As for compensation for net metering, if the project is a “qualifying facility” may determine whether it gets reimbursed at the wholesale rate or at the Smart Program (DOER) rate. Matt will forward contacts re compensation.

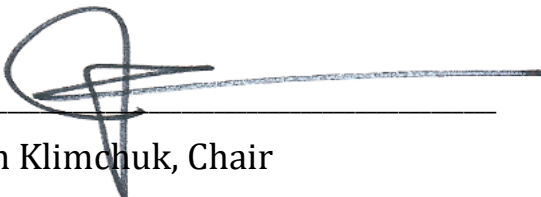
Garth asked about other sources of funding now that we learned that the Green Communities Program does not support new green energy projects, only conservation. Joe said we should talk with DOER about funding. Al inquired about the cost of the initial application and was told it would be minimal due to small size of the project. Also, what about adding solar later? Matt stated we need to look at the hosting map to see if there is capacity at the location we want. Will we need an expensive transformer? It depends on whether the project will “trip” the need for an upgrade based on the capacity available. Garth inquired about the cost of inverting the power from dc to ac? Matt said it was the first small wind project he had done but said it should not be a lot of money. Cathy inquired about the time frame involved. It takes 25 days business days then you should get permission. We can then move ahead and after that Eversource can do the construction, a two month timeframe approximately. Joe stated that we could start today if we have the account number for the meter we want to tie into. Matt can help in this process. Best to reach him by email. The contact info is below.

Contact info:

[Joseph.Mitchell@eversource.com](mailto:Joseph.Mitchell@eversource.com) Matt.Secovitch@eversource.com

Next meeting February 15, 2022, 4 PM hybrid In-person and Zoom meeting.

Adjourn



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Garth Klimchuk, Chair