

**TOWN OF BECKET  
ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 18, 2022, 4 PM  
Minutes**

In attendance (via Zoom): Garth Klimchuk (Chairman), Katherine Hoak, Susan Purser (Secretary), Al Blake, Katherine Warden (Town Administrator)

Absent: Cathy DeFoe

1. Call meeting to order at 4:01pm
2. Approved minutes of September 20, 2022 meeting – Bob, Susan
3. Discussed the following topics:
  - a. Wind turbine project – Status of Eversource interconnection application: Eversource responded back to our application that Garth had submitted. They want a single line diagram to complete the application as they have never done a wind turbine analysis before. This will necessitate hiring an electrical engineer. Garth knows someone who might do it. Susan suggested that we add the cost of the electrical engineer (~\$2,000) to the initial META grant request for the site assessment. Garth has requested an extension for the interconnection application.

Garth stated that he felt both Eversource and Hudson Wind and Solar have been difficult to deal with. He suggested we keep our options open for pursuing a solar instead of a wind turbine project especially as there may be significant federal subsidies for municipalities next year. The site assessment consultant has said that her survey will review conditions for both wind and solar installations. The electrical engineer's diagram should also be useful for both types of projects.
  - b. Wind turbine project - META Grant application: Susan offered to do the first draft of the META grant application (due 11/18/22) with help from Katherine Hoak. The application will request \$10,000 for the site assessment and \$2,000 for the electrical engineer to do a single

line diagram of the electrical system. Garth will provide more information on the electrical engineer.

- c. Wind turbine project – Support by Board of Selectmen: The Select Board gave its formal approval of the wind turbine project at a recent meeting. The Town Administrator will forward a copy of the letter to Garth and Susan for the Committee's files.
- d. Eversource Audit: Al continued the discussion from last month regarding Eversource's audit of Becket's street lights and the effort to make them more energy efficient. Currently, the Town's street lights are owned by Eversource and cannot be upgraded unless the Town buys them back. Al is currently trying to verify the correct number of street lights which is listed as 77 but some are crossed out for unknown reasons. The Town Administrator will talk with the Select Board about the issue. A quote from a contractor for the replacement lights was also circulated among the committee members.

Other issues involved are: a.) if the Town buys the street lights back, how will maintenance be carried out? Becket's highway department does not have the expertise or equipment to service the lights. b.) how many lights does the Town really want or need? Some residents may want to turn off/remove the street lights near their houses so they have darker skies. Where are street lights mandated to be? – state highways, etc? c.) if the Town decides to buy back the lights, is there a grant available from Green Communities to upgrade the lights?

The following tasks were agreed to:

1. Al will talk to Mark Rabinsky, Regional Coordinator for the Green Communities program to see if there is a grant to replace the light fixtures.
2. Cathe Warden will talk with the Select Board about the issues involved in the street lights, cost savings and number of lights needed.
3. Cathe W. will talk to Eversource about the maintenance of street lights.
4. Cathy W. will raise the issue of street light maintenance at the next monthly meeting of local Town Administrators.

4. Next meeting: Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 4 PM, a hybrid meeting of in-person and Zoom.
5. Adjourned at 4:48pm.



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J. Garth Klimchuk, Chairman