

Energy Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, April 26, 2022  
Via Zoom @ 4:30 pm  
Minutes

Roll Call:

Present: Members: Yvette Meunier, John Berry, Victor Langelo, Nick Whatley, Nancy Chandler,  
Staff: Kate Burch and Rod Melanson.  
Absent: Jared Entwistle and Jenn Curtis

Minutes to be approved: Nick made the motion and John 2nd. AIF

Staff announcement

Rod announced that he is leaving. He asks us to give town input as to what we would be looking for in a planner. His last day will be May 25.

Streetlight LED RFQ interviews

On 4/25/22 Topsham held interviews of RealTerm, Affinity, and CMP for the LED RFQ. The meeting was recorded. Victor gave an overview of the interviews. Takeaways were that CMP would charge essentially the same lease payments for LEDs so the only savings is in reduced energy costs. There would be no choices on lamps. For Realterm there is a wide variety of fixtures though the maintenance costs are three times that of Affintiy. They experience fuse failures and that accounts for the ~\$12,000 in maintenance costs a year. Affinity had maintenance costs that were around \$3,000 which is because they are in charge of the quality control of the products. They are very sustainability minded in shipping their product and innovative with new technology coming out. For maintenance, they estimate 3 calls a year estimated which is 2% failure rate which they determined was conservative. Their upfront costs were more expensive for the components though. They lacked the variety of fixtures that Realterm has. Both companies work with contractors based out of Clinton.

Jenn was interested in tax-exempt lease options with Realterm. She called the town of Randolph who was please with Realterm. Affinity project management seems to be more responsive. Affinity has the best overall proposition. Affinity hires veterans.

Kate mentioned that Affinity hung around after the meeting. Affinity made a presentation that worked well for the audience. Town is leading toward Affinity. Energy Committee to present a recommendation to the Planning Department to give to the Town Manager and Select Board. There was follow up discussion that ordinances would need to be updated to require LEDs.

Members were asked to watch the recording and work on a recommendation via email with our comments and report back at a to be determined upcoming select board meeting.

[GOPIF LED Pilot Grant Application](#)

GOPIF has awarded Topsham the full amount for our pilot LED project. The Planning Department will take the lead on determining how to move forward with this project. It may be important to determine what lights LED lights the Library has used in their LED update. Also, this could be incorporated into our recommendation to the select board that we go with fixtures appropriate to our LED RFQ recommendation.

### Education Webinar Series

A reminder that the Solar Options webinar is tomorrow starting at 6:00 pm. A big thanks to Nick for setting up most of the speakers and for Nancy in sharing out the posters. If you missed it we also made the Times Record and it is being shared on social media. It was also shared with all Highland Greens residents. 39 people are currently registered.

Our next webinar may be on Maine's Energy Utility. We will begin discussing continued programming at the beginning of summer.

### SolSmart

This is a national recognition program Andrew had applied to a while ago. Kate has ushered it across the finish line and we have received bronze recognition and we are the first in Maine to get the designation. Kate may be able to get us to silver with some recode changes but there may be some training hurdles for staff. We are looking for a photo op to go with the press release on 5/5 at 5:30 at the Town Office.

### Webpage updates

Nancy and Yvette have made reorganizing requests to our webpage to help users find out FAQs and webinars. Kate has made these updated which you can find here:

<https://www.topshammaine.com/energy>

### Intern

The Topsham Planning Department will host a Bowdoin College intern will be available to work on data collection for the Climate Action Plan beginning in the first week in June. They will be working on updates to the website too. As well as work on the EV financial analysis project Jared had submitted to UMaine. The Planning Department would like to know if we have additional ideas for their time. It may be of interest for this individual to lay ground work for future GOPIF grant requests such as collecting information from towns with landfill solar to give us information that could poise us for a future landfill solar study with GOPIF. Another idea was marking the potential for flooding and high water levels for public awareness. There is also a checklist for the Climate Action Plan we could be working on updating. Please pass ideas on to Kate for the intern?

### CPIC

There are upcoming recoding opportunities that we will be notified about that could include energy considerations such as requiring EV charging stations for certain size projects. The Planning Department will keep us posted as opportunities arise.

Next GOPIF grant ideas

- i. EV charging
- ii. EV purchasing
- iii. Solar landfill study
- iv. Complete street tech design manual

Invitation for Public Comment - none

Parking Lot

- a. Window Dressers
- b. Terms of committee members