

Energy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2022
Via Zoom @ 4:30 pm

Minutes

Roll Call:

Present: Members: Yvette Meunier, John Berry, Victor Langelo, Nick Whatley, Nancy Chandler, Jenn Curtis, Jared Entwistle

Staff: Kate Burch

Absent:

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

Streetlight LEDs

A letter was written by Victor, Jenn and Yvette recommending Affinity to the Selectboard and will be presented to the SB on June 16th. There will be a staff recommendation as well. At the June 2nd SB meeting, they will be voting to approve accepting the GOPIF grant money. Then on the 16th they will determine who will be the vendor for the GOPIF project.

Solar Options Webinar

On April 27, we had the webinar, 34 on the call, not including presenters/moderators. The recording is online and has been viewed 14 times. We had a great round of questions at the end and we followed up with additional resources to all who RSVP'd which was more than attended.

We are being asked if we'd like to do more series for the Topsham Library for their adult education. If folks are interested get in touch with the library.

Nancy would like assistance to promote her MSAD 75 adult education program House Energy Systems workshop on July 27 and August 3rd 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm on House Energy Systems. We can share out through Topsham Solar Advocates Facebook page and blurb on our webpage.

Sol Smart

We made the news and got the attention of the Governor's Energy Office who is interviewing Kate, Andrew, and myself about the process as they are looking into this recognition program for some reason. Kate noted that SolSmart might write a draft solar ordinance for other communities to copy.

Solar Site Review

There is a planning board review for a solar project on Wednesday, May 26 at 6:30 (Rescheduling - maybe fore the 9th of June) for those interested. I know some folks visited the only solar project currently under construction (Nexamp) and have some concerns. However,

the Planning Dept is not considering undergoing a review of the zoning ordinance until we at least see another project go into construction. It is noted the Nexamp site has been more challenging to develop but this one site has opened up the eyes of those reviewing these projects to ask more questions for the next one. Of the five only three have completed the full review process at the town and only one thus far has gotten interconnection approval with CMP and one has been denied by CMP but it may get approval in 2023. It is too soon to say that there will be much more development with limitations on the grid. Weekly engineering reports are coming in from NexAmp project. Glenvale project has not gone through yet as there is a setback ordinance to be decided at town meeting on May 25th. It will then need the CMP approval. \$300,000 mitigation fee will be coming from this project.

Intern

At the last meeting, Kate mentioned that 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 of 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. Have you nailed out a scope of work for them, Kate?

Work plan will be finalized once Kate meets with the intern. Double major in Economics and Environmental Studies

Next GOPIF grant ideas

Before you know it it will be August and the grant will be due. Can we do some prep work on what we want to try for next with this grant? Some ideas were:

- i. EV charging
 - ii. EV purchasing
 - iii. Solar landfill study
 - iv. Complete street tech design manual
- Western Maine Transportation/public transit Nancy wants to increase public transit.
 - Recode planning workshop on Thursday 5/26. EC will be brought in for assistance.
 - Landfill solar study may be fruitful if they get CMP approval for additional information but the timing for additional info may not make sense for the August deadline.
 - Victor suggested proposing energy efficiency /beneficial electrification projects at Town facilities to help use up credits.
 - Yvette suggested studies and a tangible thing - maybe to do with the library or town facilities
 - Nick suggested a study to prove the investment viability of a solar project
 - Look at getting audits at the town garage, town office, library, etc YM?
 - Nick suggested an outdoor workstation with incorporated solar - Nick to research, and a demonstration array project might pair well with an EV charger or electric bike charger -Kate will dig up EV charging quotes for library
 - Jenn will look up EV sales and use trends that might be useful to the presentation.

The Committee decided to take August off.

To do:

1. Small demonstration array, work space charging, computer/charging, with e bike rack for EV charging? Nick to share out what the charging looks like.
2. Get quotes for EV charges at the library and town office. Kate?
3. Does Efficiency Maine have rebates for ev car charging stations? Jared

Invitation for Public Comment - none