

Energy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 28, 2022
Via Zoom @ 4:30 pm

Minutes

Roll Call:

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

Staff: Kate Burch, Theo Curran

Guest: Susan Preece, Topsham Library

Absent: Jenn Curtis

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

Agenda Addition: Our Power Consumer Owned Utility campaign event is happening at Flight Deck from 5-7 pm on Wednesday, August 3rd. Yvette will forward the flyer onto the committee.

LEDs

On June 2nd the Selectboard voted to approve accepting the GOPIF grant money. On June 16th they determined that they would pursue Affinity to be the vendor for the GOPIF project and to upgrade our streetlights.

Solar Site Review

The planning board reviewed the Topsham Lewiston Solar Project, which is a 3-acre, 1.9MW fixed tilt solar farm at 751 Lewiston Rd. in Topsham. More info is provided here: <https://www.topshammaine.com/planning-meetings>. Panels were spaced very closely and it is a community solar project which will give the town \$62,000 in mitigation fees.

Moving forward there will be extra money in escrow for site inspections in lieu of erosion.

Intern

Theo has started to look at examples from other towns of different fees for other permits for including traffic, open space, and solar. And is interested in busses. He is an economics major with an environmental minor.

EV charging at the library

Susan Preece has been in touch with Scarborough to learn more about their charging kiosk which could be a community build. We are hoping they are interested in meeting with us to help write a GOPIF grant that could include a solar charging station for laptops or electric bikes in addition to an EV charger and supplemental programming about EVs, charging, and solar.

Scarborough public library is a town department that is 100% funded by the town. Unlike Topsham which is a not-for-profit, but gets %85 percent of its funding from the town. The

hardest thing about the kiosk was how to get the panels up high enough so cars can park under it. There was a lot of support from local businesses to pay for this which was \$40,000 in 2013. It created a lot of excitement in the town and at the library.

Topsham's library was built in 2000 and the facilities committee wants solar for the roof. It is a 50-year roof that is ½ through its life. They also talked to a local contractor about installing charging stations and it seemed too expensive for a slow charger \$80,000. Helen has these records. Is there going to be a faster charger technology in the future and if so why invest in technology that may be obsolete? Can they do a solar farm on the shoreland zoning section of their property?

They partner with CREA, Historical Society. They have used a large tent now for two years in a row from June - October when they use it, so more covered tables would be well used. It could work well with the community garden that is there in that area. Folks can ride bikes from the rec fields and trails. The kiosks are standalone with a battery pack at the tables setups. Need to get quotes for these kiosks and for charging stations. Maine State Libraries has grants to ask for money for projects due in the Fall. Also grants from Manerva Consortium \$5,000 for innovative kiosks.

To do: Kate to find quotes for these picnic tables to make sure these things look into how they weather. We need to go onto their agenda for a board meeting on the third Wednesday in August at 7pm.

Kiosks at Rec Field, near the ponds (get funding from mountain bike club).

Electric buses

The EPA has a grant program open until August 15 for electric buses (\$250,000 for MSAD 75/bus). Nancy Chandler is working with the school district on educating them about this program. There is no funding currently to allow for chargers for the teachers and students. We may plan on hosting a webinar on the positive society costs to convert to EVs.

July 7th Bike Ped Committee meeting to be presented to Select Board.

Invitation for Public Comment - none