

## Topsham Energy Committee Meeting Notes

*Date: July 27, 2021*

*Time: 4:30 PM*

*Location: Topsham Town Office, 100 Main Street, Conference Room, 2nd floor*

**\*\*Follow up items in red\*\***

**Committee Members in Attendance:** N. Whatley (V. Chair), Y. Meunier (Chair), V. Langelo, N. Chandler, J. Berry, J. Curtis (Sec.), Jared Entwistle

**Guest:** Kay Mann (4:30 to 5)

**Staff:** A. Deci, R. Melanson

Kay Mann spoke about an educational series she participated in which highlighted the variety of ways to “go solar” that was held in Camden. As a representative from Brunswick’s Sustainability Committee she shared with TEC that the town of Brunswick bought into PPA at 60-75% and buys the rest of their energy use from subscription (community solar).

Discussion of options for Fall Educational Event - having energy auditors to talk to businesses and homeowners. Upright Frameworks was mentioned as a reputable auditor. Richard Burbank (Evergreen home performance) was mentioned as a good speaker. Claire Betts was too.

The group talked about different topics of education to hold. Energy Audit/Analysis, Efficiency (Andy from Efficiency Maine), Building Science Discussion Group (Pretty Good House Group – Dan Colbert), Maine Green Building Supply and Spark Applied Energy.

Next steps would include reaching out to the Brunswick Energy Committee on the idea of a joint series at Curtis Library Series? Yvette to follow up with Kay to coordinate.

A.Deci gave an update on the LED workshop meeting scheduled with the Select Board. A. Deci drafted a memo for the SB and reviewed the options. Rod will present, and the Committee should ask, “What else would they like to know, in order to make a decision?”

The Committee discussed how to best provide updates to the SB. The group discussed the upcoming LED workshop meeting.

J. Curtis made a motion to adopt the minutes as drafted

N. Chandler seconded

AIF

N. Whatley gave a debriefing on the TEC update at the previous BOS meeting in July. The SB requested case studies. Staff recommended looking at options for Code Enforcement vehicles. Staff noted that law enforcement has certain top speed requirements which would not work for the grant opportunities recently shared with them. There is interest in the EC to investigate light duty vehicles for public works too. It was also noted that the DOT refueling garage in Topsham keeps biodiesel.

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Solar habitat mitigation fee – the Conservation Commission is working on where the funds should go.

Planning Board wants to have a chat with the Solar Committee about how the solar ordinance is working.

Heavy Duty Vehicle topic tabled because John was no longer in attendance.

Discussion of potential uses for solar project mitigation revenue. Yvette suggested using funds to update data for Topsham Climate Action Plan. Yvette suggested applying for a grant to help pay for the software to use to update it through the New England Grassroots Fund and submitting a memo to SB in late August to ask permission (to present at meeting in September).

Conservation Commission has a rough draft for how to use the money in their pot. Victor suggested the small amount of funds they have could be used as matching funds for MCHT and BTLT, etc. He said the TEC could have input on the draft policy. Victor will share what he has now, and the Committee can provide input.

J. Curtis made a motion to adjourn the meeting

V. Langelo seconded

AIF.