

Energy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 22, 2022
Conference room or online @ 4:30 pm

Present: Yvette Meunier, Victor Langelo, Jennifer Curtis, Nick Whatley, Jared Wildwhistle, and Nancy Chandler,

Staff: Derek Skrapchanski, Julie Erdman, Hap Stelling

Intro by Julie Erdman Topsham's new Planner and Hap Stelling
Intros by Energy Committee members

Invitation for public comment - none

Approval of [10-25-22](#) meeting minutes. Minutes were reviewed. Nick made a motion to approve and Jenn seconded. AIF (All in favor)

LED Lights

Update from Derek: LED light conversion to happen on Monday for all street lights and other public building lights including public works, etc.

LED light conversion of the town complex overhead lights will occur from Nov 28 until Dec.12.

Some areas of town are heavy in light such as Bay Park, while other areas like the Glades have few street lights.

Lighting Policy

Other areas of town have unique lighting can we unify things for new development? Create a policy for taking down and putting up lights. Will be brought up at the workshop on December 7. If it is supported at the meeting we can create a policy that may be upgraded to an ordinance. Village Drive light replacement is frequent and costly, do they need to be replaced? What are the lighting standards in existing policies/ordinances/codes?

Hap: Be careful how you approach lighting regulations, with Dark Skies, and brand new supermarkets expected here. There are requirements the grocery stores don't like. There are challenges in dealing with grocery stores on landscaping and lighting. Topsham Code prescribes lighting standards. Public safety would want to weigh in on adequate lighting. certain areas of town might be amenable to lower lighting, but not a uniform standard of whole town.

Work Plan BOS Workshop

December 7 at 6:30Pm is a meeting of the Energy Committee with the Board of Selectmen to determine the EC work plan. Priorities for Energy Committee Work Plan discussed.

Solar Credits

Topsham has \$25,000 in extra community solar credits, since Topsham is getting credits based on 70% of the standard rate, which has doubled in the past 2 years. The EC is proposing using Efficiency Maine grants to install a paid public charger at the Topsham Library that would use some of these excess lower rate credits the town has purchased to sell for public charging, generating town income. The credits go away if not used in one year, so we are planning to utilize more of them. The town is also negotiating to reduce our allocation from the more expensive Naples/Casco community solar project, and perhaps get out of this extra project entirely.

EV procurement for Planning/Codes?

Brunswick is leasing them. Perhaps an opportunity to bring select board out to ask questions and see how it works on the ground. EV and hybrid vehicles for the police department are not available yet. Currently Planning and Code employees use old vehicles handed down from other departments.

Tax Rebates for Energy Upgrades Webinars- Business, Individual

- i. Climate Work Maine - Businesses (JW, JB)- End of Feb.
- ii. ReWire America - Individual (YM, JB, VL) - End of March.

December 9, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. - *Electric Vehicles, the 411. May be good for folks to attend for future event ideas.*

January 13, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. - *The Inflation Reduction Act & You Good* resource to find speakers on for a possible presentation on IRA for residents and businesses. John is interested in helping develop IRA webinars for both residents and businesses. Jared is interested in helping on the business side. Victor to help if he has time.

Efficient Rewiring webinar, just for residents program. Existing webinar on tax credits for businesses.

Target end of Feb for first webinar. Jan meeting we'll focus on webinar development and PR.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM JB first and second by JW end