

Topsham Energy Committee Meeting Notes

Date: December 22, 2020

Time: 4:30 PM

*Location: Via Zoom **Follow up items in red***

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

Staff: A. Deci, R. Melanson

Action: Y. Meunier made a motion to adopt the November 24th meeting notes, with a formatting edit to numbered bullet points; V. Langelo seconded; AIF (All in favor)

Chairperson N. Whatley said the group should flesh out specific plans for work and share it with the Town Select Board (SB) to get their input and buy-in, before expending lots of effort.

A. Deci said everyone was on-board with converting streetlights to LED. The next thing to do is decide between two options – taking ownership of the streetlights, or leaving them in CMP ownership. The Committee was in favor of taking ownership, and it was decided that a statement with bulleted reasons justifying the preference would be send to A. Deci for him to use as an endorsement for the option from the Energy Committee(EC). **N. Chandler will draft and send to the group for review.** The EC would be happy to help review RFPs for specific options, when the time comes.

The EC discussed options for getting electric vehicle charging stations.

- **A. Deci will look into options for leasing spaces to a commercial entity**
- **The EC will look at the grant option, as a Plan B.**

The EC discussed how to advocate for electric vehicles, and the proposal of drafting a policy for their purchase and use was considered. An example was given of a policy that at least 30% of a department fleet would be hybrid or electric. Other types of policies could be proposed, as well, for the Town to consider adopting. **Y. Meunier will draft a synopsis of the EV charging stations available with pros and cons.**

A. Deci updated the Committee on the forthcoming SolSmart designation. SolSmart has the intent of breaking down barriers to solar development, and uses a rating system to designate solar-friendly communities.

The EC discussed updating the select board on the solar facility that has recently begun operating, and particularly to highlight savings. **Y. Meunier will draft a statement.**

A. Deci shared that the Maine Farmland Trust is recognizing Topsham for a mitigation requirement for solar facilities that would use land with high open-space resource value.

Y. Meunier motioned to adjourn

Chairperson N. Whatley encouraged the group to stay focused on getting the best bang for the buck and not getting too bogged down in off-track details.

Chairperson N. Whatley called the meeting to close at 5:49PM.