

Bennington Energy Committee
Minutes
January 3, 2018

Unapproved

Attendance: Molly Eppig, Peter Eppig, Peter Martel, David McKenzie, Mike Munhall

Meeting started at ~6:08.

The minutes were reviewed and amended. Molly moved, Mike seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously as amended (see attached).

Peter M indicated his intention to resign, switching his focus to regional efforts. He encouraged the committee to consider becoming ad hoc. Based on his experiences with other energy committees, he explained that an ad hoc committee can move more quickly, communicating more freely between meetings (giving an example of another town's ad hoc committee) while remaining just as transparent, if not more so. He indicated he will remain active with the Bennington Energy Committee if they are willing, but will be a non-voting participant, thus will no longer be the secretary, encouraging someone else to step forward for that role. He asked to remain on the email list regarding all communications so he can continue to participate easily as a member of the public. David asked him to remain as an alternate, to make a quorum (more than 1/2) possible if a member were absent. He indicated he would but all were encouraged to find someone else to join the committee.

The street light project discussed, with David and the Eppigs sharing what Dee reported last month, that the Sunapee firm was awarded the contract and work will begin after Eversource approves the project and releases incentive funds, followed by the contractor ordering and receiving materials, then scheduling the work which should take just a few days. Peter E shared again that 50% of the total cost (of up to \$10,000) will be covered by the NH Charitable Foundation grant. He needs a contract and a letter from town with the final numbers. Peter E. will meet w/ Dee again for an update. David would like the updated status of the project for the annual report. David will also ask Dee to confirm Eversource incentive money, about the lights to be removed, and ask about recovering the funds on the 2 lights that didn't exist, but were still on the inventory.

David shared info about solar projects he gathered at the LES Conference, especially from Jonathan Lawrence from Revision Energy. Peter shared info re Wilton's Energy Committee's effort with solar on their high school & fire station, as well as a large parcel near their water pumps. We discussed possible locations and the process for going forward. Molly suggested reaching out to 2-3 solar companies, including Revision and she will do that. David and Peter will work to get Eversource billing/usage data so we'll

have that for the sake of moving forward with solar. Peter M shared that there were multiple models for financing these projects, including the model the Monadnock Coop in Keene used.

As agreed previously, our future meetings will start at 6pm. Our next meeting will be on, 2/7 from 6-6:45, as the town's SB-2 meeting will begin at 7pm.

We adjourned @7:10

Respectfully submitted,

Peter K Martel

These minutes are unreviewed and unapproved. See future minutes for approval and any corrections.

Included: Approved Minutes from 12/06/17

Town of Bennington
Energy Committee: Minutes December 6, 2017
Final

Attendance: Molly Eppig, Peter Eppig, David McKenzie

Dee French relayed the information that the Select Board recently reaffirmed their interest in having the energy committee look into the feasibility of using solar power for the town's buildings. The committee came up with a number of questions that need to be addressed:

1. Financing – A presentation at the Local Energy Solutions conference offered a list of eight possible means of financing, five of which have been used by New Hampshire towns.
2. Siting
3. Return on Investment – Payback Time
4. Sizing of Array...Depends on ...
5. ... Current Usage and How Much Can be Replaced by Solar Power
6. Incentives or Rebates
7. Who – Companies that can do the work? (Some were at the Local Energy Solutions conference).

Dee French provided an update on the streetlight replacement contract. David McKenzie asked her about grants. After a brief discussion, Peter Eppig volunteered to meet with Dee to work out the parameters for a request for a matching grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

Peter Eppig recalled that the committee had discussed moving the meeting time to 6:00 pm. This discussion was not recorded in the minutes, and no action has been taken. David McKenzie will poll the committee to see whether all can be available to meet at this earlier hour.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Recorded by David McKenzie