

Location and time: Online meeting, 10/15/20 at 7:00 pm

Members in attendance: Steve Harte (Chair), Julie Gervais (Vice Chair), Claire Galkowski, Jen Atkins, Kate La Croix (Secretary), Sue McGown

Others in attendance: Maria Costantini, Brian Bayer

Routine Business

Approval of minutes. Minutes from the September 2020 meeting were approved.

Topics Discussed:

Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA) Working Group Update (Maria, who is on the committee, reported):

On October 29, there will be a public hearing for the town with the Mass. Dept. of Public Utilities (DPU); DPU approval is needed to move ahead with the CEA plans. The Working Group is working on a statement, to be entered as public comment, urging the DPU to approve the CEA plan quickly. The plan is for members of the town leadership to sign and provide this statement ahead of the meeting.

- Question from the group: Who should the signing members be? It was suggested that Chris Coleman (Town Administrator), Tom Philbin (Energy Manager), and the Select Board sign.
- Question from the group: Do we need to anticipate and head off roadblocks from the DPU? Maria's impression is that it has not been particularly difficult for other towns to get approval.

Next steps:

- Regarding potential roadblocks from the DPU, it was suggested that we ask Stefano Loretto (Good Energy).
- After DPU approval, the SelectBoard will issue a Request for Proposals developed by Good Energy for the power purchase

Discussion of Resiliency and Sustainability initiatives in WW Comprehensive Plan: WEAC looked at a draft of the Sustainability and Resiliency section of the town's Comprehensive Plan.

- The group discussed the mention of photovoltaics in the plan. WEAC should play a role in promoting exploration of solar options] and public choice.
- There was a discussion of WEAC's role in promoting municipal PV projects:
 - WEAC could take more of a leadership role in publicly circulating information on solar projects in town.
 - The question was raised: how do we reach people in the town? It was difficult to determine this, as people get their information from so many different sources.

- put information out in both traditional channels and perhaps also on social media. it would be preferable to direct people to more formal channels of communication rather than entering into discussion in the social media format.
- WEAC can offer a forum for public discussion of projects as well as opportunities for question and answer sessions.
- WEAC needs to be more proactive in communicating with the town's residents about projects, particularly solar projects, that are relevant to the group's mission.
- There was a recap of why Shuttleworth was taken off the table at the last Select Board meeting.
- revisit previously considered solar project proposals in town.
- Incentives for solar can be lost if too much time passes. On the other hand, residents may feel that this causes the town to move ahead too quickly and without sufficiently involving the public in the decision making process.
- Many groups are interested in this topic and are eager to devote a lot of energy toward helping to develop solar, etc.

Next steps:

- Claire will get in touch with Tom Philbin re: WEAC's role in promoting solar going forward and channels of communication we can use in Westwood.
- Claire will check in with Steve Olanoff regarding the timeline for the Comprehensive Plan.
- Jen and Julie will look at the newest draft of Sustainability and Resiliency plan and report at the next WEAC meeting.

Items for next agenda:

- Presentation by Stefano Loretto on CEA
- Another look at the Sustainability and Resiliency sections of the Comprehensive Plan for Westwood

Adjourned: 8:00 PM**Next meeting date:** 11/12/20 7:30 PM