

*Approved as presented 5/15/2019*

PEC Meeting Minutes

4/10/19

Convened at 7:10 PM

Attending: Conrad, Judy, Renee; Peter Lapointe (at about 8PM following his Planning Board meeting)

Minutes of 3/13 meeting were read and accepted as amended.

### **Old business**

#### Hwy Garage Roofing/Insulation project

Conrad presented Tim's notes from 4/2/2019 Building Committee meeting that he attended. After Peter joined the meeting he gave a firsthand overview of the status. Subject to structural engineer Ryan Hellwig's analysis, it is possible that a structural reinforcement could support both a new roof with insulation and rooftop PV. Other possibilities being considered are reducing the number of heated bays, a separate new structure for maintenance, or ultimately complete replacement of existing structure. Bottom line is that there is no assurance that we will be able to spend GC money on the property during FY 2020.

Conrad furnished Peter a spreadsheet summary of all ECMs documented by the Bowman Energy Audits of the other buildings, in hopes he can identify one, or more to promote for Building Committee consideration. It would be desirable to show some progress on energy saving measures, rather than exclusively municipal PV.

#### Green Community Designation Grant status

The DOER Comments received 4/5/2019 on our GC Annual Report were discussed:

- CR 1&2 issue involved a simple misunderstanding of the report form.
- CR 3 issues were primarily about apparent gaps in MEI reporting of fuel deliveries, likely due to timing of deliveries. Additionally, a 78% increase in Highway Garage oil consumption for FY 2018 can be explained by a 2 cord reduction in wood burned, new reliable oil-fired unit heater in use, and timing of oil deliveries.
- CR4 – A request that MPG ratings be provided for new vehicle acquisitions (two dump trucks). This comment will be contested, as EPA does not provide estimates for greater than 8,500 GVWR, and a random choice of a reference source would seem meaningless.

Conrad presented the amended DOER contract paperwork to request an extension, carrying our remaining GC Designation Grant funds over to FY 2020. Need to get Howard Bronstein signature, and return to DOER.

#### Municipal Solar PV with GC Designation Grant

Ground mounted PV proposals from Resonant Energy were reviewed. They are offering a couple levels of consulting services ranging from \$3,500 for RFP assistance only, to \$9,500 for RFP and "full development support". They mentioned assisting town of Becket with PV procurement, but ultimately did not contract for consulting services. The consensus of members is that we probably don't require these services. Judy expressed concern about the adverse aesthetics of a ground mount on Hallock lot, she would prefer roof top. Also, safety concerns given the varied use of the property (it might have to be fenced).

Peter Lapointe expressed opinion that rooftop PV on Hallock building is appropriate, and now is the time to act as the building will be reroofed due to recent windstorm damage. He will make the argument to the Building Committee. Conrad will request a proposal from SunBug to help estimate the economics.

#### Nexamp NMC Subscription Availability

The Plainfield Union St. array is interconnected and operating. Potential subscribers from Nexamp's

waiting list were issued contracts for allocations, and expect to receive credits soon. Also, customers were notified that Eversource has elected the option to pay the developer directly, rather than give on-bill credits. This means the NMC subscribers will simply receive a monthly payment from Nexamp for the 15% discount, rather than the reduction in their Eversource bill, and subsequent invoice from Nexamp for the 85% amount.

### **New business**

#### PVPC - Regional Energy Planning Assistance Grant

Howard Bronstein had communicated about availability of DOER funding for their Regional Energy Planning Assistance Grant that allows regional planning agencies like PVPC to apply for technical assistance funding on behalf of the communities they serve. This funding can be used for administrative support and technical assistance for Green Communities and also for non-Green Communities clean energy projects. We discussed that “Assistance with procurement activities...” and “Clean energy planning” were the areas that Plainfield might benefit from. Conrad will pass this opinion on to Howard.

#### Other new business

Next meeting scheduled for 5/8/19.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Conrad Liebenow