



TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY COMMITTEE

FINAL MINUTES: OCTOBER 6, 2016

Members Present: ✓ Tom Hall, ✓ Carlton D. Hunt, ☐ TBD

Guests: Andrew DeIonno and Lisa Sullivan of the Bridgewater Community and Economic Development Office (CED); Michael Dutton, Town Manager.

The October 6, 2016 Energy Committee (EC) meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM in Room 201b of the Academy Building with a quorum present. The agenda was approved. There were no announcements. Approval of the August 9, 2013 draft meeting minutes was postponed to the next meeting pending review by the Committee.

The assembled personnel discussed the process for posting agendas and minutes on the newly updated Town website. Going forward, the posting information provided to the Town Clerk's office will be added to the Town's website by CED staff. Lisa will also add the quarterly meeting dates for CY2017 to the Town's online calendar per Administrative Code requirement.

Two topics under the energy aggregation agenda were considered:

1. An update from the Town Manager on the Old Colony Planning Council's energy aggregation contract through Colonial.
2. Community Solar outreach concepts.

Mr. Dutton indicated that his meeting with West Bridgewater officials and Colonial was fruitful and clarified many of the concepts in Colonial's energy aggregation support contract. Colonial indicated a willingness to work on the contract language should the Town seek to enter into a contract. The committee made no recommendations with respect to energy aggregation concepts.

A second Community Solar company, RelayPower, has recently marketed Community Solar within Bridgewater. The first was Solstice Initiative. Carlton will speak with the President of RelayPower to gain a better understanding of their contract conditions.

After a discussion of the Town's role and Energy Committee's mission to provide or promote lower power rates for residents and businesses, the assembled team agreed that the Energy Committee should continue research on town-wide energy cost reduction options for citizens. It was also agreed that the Energy Committee would spearhead development of an online survey designed to gauge the public's interest in a Town policy of individual choices (e.g., opt in option) for energy purchase or an aggregate purchase contract (i.e., opt out option) for energy. Carlton volunteered to draft a survey concept by the next EC meeting.

Consideration of a MOU proposed by the Solstice Initiative to explore the potential for development of a Community Solar field publicly owned land in Bridgewater continued. The present renewable energy cap for hookups into the National Grid electricity distribution system was noted as a roadblock towards developing this potential economic development option. Carlton has not yet followed up on requesting formal review and determination of the next steps up to and including whether the Town Council must approve an MOU such as that proposed by Solstice.

Lisa reported that most of the projects awarded under the Green Community FY16 competitive grant have been completed. Several are pending due to construction issues (i.e., the Highway roof repair and Memorial Building upgrade).



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With respect to the Green Communities annual report, Lisa announced that she was no longer responsible for tracking and reporting the vehicle inventory report for the subject report and had conveyed the tracking spreadsheet to the Town Manager's office who has taken on the responsibility. Carlton will also provide last year's tracking spreadsheet and the fuel-efficient vehicle policy with a request to complete the update no later than mid-November 2016.

Andrew noted that he has facilitated the addition of a HERS reporting field in the building department's permit tracking system to expedite annual reporting. Fields for tracking the status of affordable housing properties have also been added.

Lisa reported her meeting with the school district's Budget and Finance committee was well received. She has not received feedback as to the committee's interest and will follow-up with the superintendent to help ensure any agreements can be completed before our annual green communities' report is due.

Carlton conveyed that he had met with the Financial Director to gain an understanding of the methodology for assigning NGRID energy credits received from our solar field energy provider. Mr. Sulmonte indicated he expects the Town to recover the delayed cost savings by late FY17. Carlton provided the town's energy use and consumption from August 2015 to August 2016 and shared thoughts provided to the Finance Director regarding accounts to prioritize for credits to maximize avoided costs in the general fund accounts versus enterprise fund accounts going forward.

With respect to the solar fields, the Town Manager conveyed that the Town has not signed PILOT agreements with either the Curve Street nor Fireworks Circle solar field owners. Tax revenue will be generated through the regular tax assessment and taxation policies. Andrew reported the proposed Auburn street solar field (Imhoff Field) is still a work in progress. The RFP for a solar canopy over the golf course parking lot is on hold pending increased ceiling in the state's renewable energy cap.

Action on energy related ordinances (wind) remain deferred. No immediate needs to revise the solar ordinance were raised.

The meeting was adjourned at ~2:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 5th 4PM in Room 201A of the Academy Building.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlton D. Hunt".

Submitted by Carlton D. Hunt, Ph.D.,
EC Chair