

Town of Dublin Energy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 29, 2023
7 PM at Town Hall, ground floor

In attendance: Blake Minckler, Jack Munn, Susan Peters (Select Board), John Kondos (Clean Energy NH).

LED Lighting. Switching to LED municipal lighting was discussed. At Clean Energy NH's Local Energy Solutions Conference on 11/2, Affinity ILED Lighting offered some basic information about their work with area communities including Keene. Susan will share their contact information with the Select Board and Town Administrator.

Municipal Solar. John updated the Committee about grant funds that may become available in NH for small municipal solar projects. Some grants offer 80/20 funding, requiring only a 20% town match. These grants can be competitive with various factors involved in qualifying. Inflation Reduction Act tax incentives can also cover a portion of the costs. The Select Board is considering proposing a warrant article to create and set aside funds in an Energy Capital Reserve Account. The funds could potentially be used to fund the Town's portion of the cost of a solar array on the Fire Department roof. A few months ago, Greg Blake estimated a total cost of \$47,500 to install a solar array at the Fire Station. Any project would need to go out to bid by RFP, and inflation must be considered when estimating future costs. Looking at the Fire Department's current electricity usage, a roof solar array could generate output roughly comparable to current usage so net metering might not be involved.

Jack reported on further work by Novis Engineering studying the capped landfill including generating aerial maps. John explained that he is meeting with Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) to discuss brownfield sites that may be suitable for a ground solar array. SWRPC is interested in helping communities with the process. Proximity to 3-phase power (with surplus capacity) is an important consideration. Winchester and Dublin have both identified possible sites. There are several steps in the evaluation process including: (1) screening; (2) studying the property and grid; (3) evaluating the likelihood of investment interest; (4) doing a ground study of soils, geology, and woods; (5) community engagement. Thanks to Jack's work with Novis Engineering, Dublin is at step 2 in the evaluation process. Important next steps will be to evaluate the geology and determine the Town's interest in moving forward. Susan will bring this up at the next Select Board meeting. We need to get more information from J.B. Mack at SWRPC about possible next steps.

November 1, 2023 minutes

On motion made by Jack and second by Blake, the minutes of the November 1 meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan W. Peters