

## **LEE ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

### **October 24, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE:** Don Anderson, Louis Grondin, Carol Doering, Barb Wauchope, Mary Woodward

The minutes of the 9-19 -23 meeting of the Energy Commission were circulated and approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. The initial discussion of this week was on the RFP for the new Town Hall in which it was rumored only 2 responded. Lou Grondin is to have a meeting with the Town Administrator and will get the actual responses for discussion in the next meeting.
2. Lou mentioned he did get an update on the Library renovation (item #2 previously).
  - a. Lou followed up with Bill Booth who indicated that Deb Schanda is pursuing NH Saves items to help pay for the energy items for the Library.
  - b. Mary Woodward asked if we knew what the R-values were for the varied insulations? We do not have that information at this time.
  - c. Lou noted that Bill Booth indicated Durham is a step ahead and wondered if we would require a warrant article later on for the increase, which is something the Commission should determine. To be discussed with the Town Administrator.
3. Regarding Consumer Power Aggregation (Items #8 and #15 previously) Lou reported from Katrin Kasper that in order to get lower rates it may need to be put off until March based on the reduced rates from the Utilities Eversource and NHEC.
  - a. To a question as to whether we should announce that to the residents of Lee it was determined that we require something official from Standard Power through the Town of Lee, who is responsible for the Aggregation agreement. Lou will cover this in his meeting with the Town Administrator.
  - b. It was noted that in a request from the town to the Utilities for the number of customers it was provided by Eversource, but NHEC indicated they needed written approval to do so from the Energy Commission.
  - c. Mary Woodward looked up on line for the committee that Dover did announce they were implementing their aggregation plan at 10.9 cents at 33% renewables. It was 12.3 cents for 50% and 15.2 cents for 100%. This made it difficult to believe that Standard Power couldn't offer the option to our citizens of getting to 100% renewables.
4. Regarding EV chargers it was rumored that the police department is contemplating up to 3 electric police cars in the near future and it was felt that EV chargers might then best be at the PSC. Lou was to check on the reality of this rumor in his meeting with the Town Administrator.
  - a. There was discussion of whether level 2 (240 V requirements) or level 3 (480 V requirements) chargers should be put in place with the belief that the cost of Level 3 is prohibitively higher. Don volunteered to look into the price differences and other EV charger details for the next meeting. It was noted that typical in-home costs are \$500 to \$600 for a level 2 charger. It was noted that Katrin looks into the grants for EV Chargers and we should start with a call to her for the latest update.
  - b. There was a discussion of which charging standard will be applied as many are converging starting in 2025.

- c. The Library continues to want one.
5. There is still a ticket for the Local Energy Solutions (LES). Lou Grondin is pulling together a presentation on the success of the insulation of the PSC building. This brought out a discussion of how we get the numbers for it and how we continue to get numbers as the Energy Commission as we are required to do at least an Annual Audit of the Energy Use of the Town Buildings.
  6. Barbara Wauchope will continue to try and pull together “the story” of Lee’s Energy Baseline and will work with Andy on that information. The ‘hassle’ in the past has been NHEC. She has the beginnings from 5 years ago and it was suggested we could build up from that time frame. We agreed the timing for the annual information is the Fiscal year from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> each year.
  7. The Lee Energy Commission will have to bring to the Select Board’s policy team a suggested warrant article on how to put aside money to “buy out” the solar array on the Transfer Station over the next 5 years. It will need to be completed by the end of the year for presentation in January—this was mentioned but not discussed in detail.
  8. No discussion on the Natural Resources Map.
  9. Regarding the new “Starbucks” no discussion.
  10. Follow up question whether the Commission should recommend to the Select Board tighter building efficiency codes for Lee was not discussed.
  11. The fund for Energy Efficiency was discussed and felt we should continue to request \$1,000 for initial funding from the town. Lou can mention this in the meeting with the Town Administrator.
  12. Regarding the grant for an Electric Bobcat for the Recycling Center where we could power it by Solar is presently tabled. In an informal discussion at the Recycling Center, they were aware of the price and that initial quantities of these will be going to California and an invested company.
  13. Regarding Mast Way: No update as we will need to work with the new facility people hired as well as the new Superintendent to determine what might be possible with the School Board. Erik Johnson has a contact on the School Board he can reach out to determine possibilities.
  14. Regarding the whole house monitor there was discussion of whether this was the best investment compared to infrared sensors and how they would be applied by the Library. There is a Library Equipment Borrowing possibility mentioned on the Library web site.
  15. Not discussed: updating the town web site—still needed: CIP improvements (2017-2024), Energy Handbook, Homeowner guides and Energy Efficiency Road Map for the town buildings. No discussion. The goal is still prior to budget discussions at the end of the year.
  16. Not discussed: the need to promote an ordinance for preventing taxation of solar arrays in the town and not just depend on the goodness of the assessor to not include it. Lou spoke with Bill Booth but there was no conclusion. Mary Woodward recently joined the Energy Information Coalition and will send out a link to the committee to gain information for this effort.
  17. Regarding an expert on heat pumps Matt Rusteika, and the possible tree expert for education, no discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion of how we might initiate use of “mini and / or micro” electric transportation such as the use of Cargo E-Bikes being tried at some Lowes. Peachtree city was also brought up again in the discussion of how to promote energy efficient transportation around our town.

It was noted that our own Mary Woodward was named Volunteer of the Year at the recent town employee and volunteer appreciation dinner. Congratulations Mary!

Next Meeting to be held 11/28/23 (Tuesday after Thanksgiving).

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.