

## Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES) – Town of Yarmouth

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Nov 13, 2019

**Present:**

**Committee Members**

Toby Ahrens  
Heather Abbot  
David Ertz  
Kurt Adams  
David Craig  
Mike Sears  
Chuck Parker

**Town Council Members**

**Town Employees**

Scott LaFlamme  
Nat Tupper

**Public**

**Votes & Decisions:**

Minutes from previous meeting approved 7-0 (Scott Sherriff absent).

**Commitments Made:**

- Heather to finalize plans for Jan 2020 showing of movie Reinventing Power at the Yarmouth Library.
- David and Kurt to work together to get estimates for solar pre-engineering activities (David) and legal including CMP liability issues (Kurt)
- Toby will continue to stay up to date on building committee energy efficiency considerations.
- Toby to advertise Heat Pump Info Night (Dec 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Heather will continue facilitating CEES column for the quarterly town newsletter
- Chuck will continue to work with Window Dressers.
- Scott LaFlamme to look into EV charging station master plan
- Scott S to coordinate Jennifer Brennan's participation (by phone) next meeting
- Next meeting is Dec 11<sup>th</sup>

**Meeting Notes:**

- Welcome to Mike Sears, newest Committee Member!
- Town Council agreed to change RESAC's name to the Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES) and to authorize staff support – Welcome to Scott LaFlamme, and thank you!
- Heather provided an update on new flyers for the Town newsletter.
- Heather discussed a Dec or Jan showing of Reinventing Power and consensus was to push to January to spread out CEES events given the Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Heat Pump event.
- Toby provided an update on the school building bond projects. Rooftop solar will be explored during a walkthrough of YES with Revision Energy on Friday, Nov 22 (10:30am-12noon).
- Toby provided an update on the Heat Pump Info Night and will work with Heather on finalizing the flyer and advertising in the Notes, Forecaster, and Chamber newsletter.
- David E provided an update on the potential Town solar project:

- David and Kurt are in touch with CMP Senior Counsel, Real Estate and AvanGrid Chief Counsel and indications are that CMP is very willing to work with the Town to locate a solar project for the benefit of the Town on the pole yard site. This willingness was affirmed by CMP's President through its Senior Counsel.
- There are 3 major issues that must be addressed:
  - Restrictive covenant would need to be modified to allow the site to be used for a solar project
  - 3rd party liability and indemnification
  - Town takes full responsibility for environmental incidents (releases of contaminants that currently exist at the site) due to the actions of the town, its employees, contractors, etc.
- Kurt had a discussion with DEP and they were generally responsive and supportive of the idea if CMP is on board
- Economic considerations at each of the 3 candidate sites were discussed
- There was discussion around the goals of the solar project and general agreement that green power at the lowest price should be the goal.
- There was discussion regarding joining forces with neighboring municipalities for a joint solar project to improve project economics. Nat had reached out to Cumberland and learned that the Town is partnering with MSAD 51) to build a project in town, and they were too far along in the process already (RFP ready to be issued) to consider another party.
- David and Kurt will work together to get estimates for solar pre-engineering activities, e.g. wetland delineation (David) and legal including CMP liability issues (Kurt). They will also look into filing an application for a 3-phase interconnection with CMP (~\$300 fee) to reduce a potential future delay due to the volume of requests that CMP is currently fielding.
- David Craig provided an update on electric bus incentives (Yarmouth opted not to pursue) and EV charging stations. The Town did not pursue a charging station for the library due to concerns around existing parking constraints. There was discussion around other possible locations for charging stations and Scott LaFlamme offered to look into a more comprehensive approach to evaluating opportunities throughout the Town.
- Nat mentioned that Maine Biodiesel will be selling B20 to MDOT and may be trying to offer home heating fuel at some blend level. CEES may want to learn more from Maine Biodiesel at some point.
- Scott provided an update (in absentia) that Jennifer Brennan from Efficiency Maine is available to call in next meeting to discuss EV
- There was a brief discussion on hydropower possibilities in Yarmouth (general feedback was that it had been looked into before and was likely not economical and a potential political lightning rod).
- There was brief discussion around the rails and trails bike trail project and feedback was that other committees and advocacy groups had this well-covered, no particular need for CEES to be involved at this point.