
Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES)

Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

7:00 – 9:00pm, Town Hall – West Wing

Purpose

The January 8, 2020 (Happy New Year!) meeting will continue to build off productive discussions started during the Committee's December 11th meeting. The Committee will begin by hearing from Heather on the *Reinventing Power* event on January 7th, in addition to outlining future public outreach events. The Committee will then hear from Toby, regarding ongoing energy-related projects at the School(s), followed by an update from David and Kurt on the Committee's solar installation project. Finally, the Committee will hear from the staff liaison on ongoing program/project updates.

Agenda

Call to Order/Approval of December 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The January 8, 2020 meeting came to order at 7:05pm. With a quorum in attendance, David Craig moved to accept the December 11, 2019 meeting minutes. Chuck Parker seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Programming Update

Heather Abbott began by reviewing the *Reinventing Power* event that was held on January 7th. H. Abbott reported that 23 residents participated and overall the event was a success. Maine Green Power was in attendance and is anxious to work with the committee on future projects.

Toby Ahrens reported on his work with the School Department and with Water District after last meeting's EV vehicle alternatives discussion. T. Ahrens shared that the Water District was excited to hear about the financial opportunities and would explore alternatives for their fleet. The School District was also very receptive. T. Ahrens also reported that the school's building committee had not yet met about solar opportunities as part of the construction plans.

Municipal Solar Site

Kurt Adams shared conversations he has had with DEP and CMP regarding the Sligo Road pole yard property. All his work with DEP has been overwhelmingly positive. The Department is anxious to make this project happen and would work with the Town to navigate potential environmental concerns. CMP's initial enthusiasm has been tempered as the project has been sent to additional decision makers for review. Additional legal review will need to be conducted to resolve CMP's reservations on current and future liability that is tied to the site. Although there are new questions to answer, K. Adams is optimistic that a deal can come together, should the Committee recommend a solar array on the Sligo Road property.

Materials

- * Meeting Agenda
- * Minutes, December 11, 2019

Committee Members

Present

Heather Abbott, Chair
Toby Ahrens
David Ertz
David Craig
Scott Sherriff
Chuck Parker
Kurt Adams
April Humphrey, Council Liaison

Staff

Scott LaFlamme,
Economic Development Director

Public



David Ertz gave an update on his work with Revision Energy to determine the best and most economic route for the Town: developing a solar site at Sligo Road or focusing on a power purchase agreement (PPA) with clean energy coming from somewhere else in the CMP service territory. Projected PPA rates of 11-13 cents/KWH to develop the Sligo parcel or 9 cents/KWH to purchase through a standard PPA. D. Ertz and Scott LaFlamme are continuing to calculate current energy usage for the Town.

After a productive discussion, the committee agreed that while there are obvious advantages to having a solar array in the community (educational, ability to own the system in the future, etc.) the objective is to reduce the Town's electrical spending by investing in clean energy.

Staff Updates

- Scott LaFlamme reported out on his conversations with DOT and METRO regarding EV charging stations at the park and ride lots and electric bus alternatives.
- The committee was invited to a volunteer appreciation event at Patriot Insurance on January 28th from 6:00-8:00pm.
- S. LaFlamme polled the committee to see if it would be interested in reviewing submissions for the Town's LED conversion project and ultimately making a vendor recommendation to the Town Council. The committee was very excited for the opportunity and Scott Sherriff, Mike Sears, Chuck Piper, David Ertz and David Craig volunteered as a subcommittee.

New Business

The committee felt it was time to reengage the Council on the group's progress, in hopes of getting direction on next steps. The group will present three options for consideration 1.) Developing the Sligo Road parcel 2.) entering a PPA at another solar site, and 3.) exploring a hybrid option that would develop the site locally, while entering a PPA to meet the rest of the town/school district's energy load.

Adjournment

Upon mutual consent, the Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Strategic Priorities & Outcomes / Next Steps

- Consult with the Town Council on next steps
- If the Sligo Road parcel is chosen, consult with municipal counsel on CMP term sheet and DEP restrictive covenants. Also, consult with environmental consultants on the wetland delineation of the sites.

