

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

1/18/2022

Present: D.Collet, D.Smith, P.Cadden-Zimansky, L.Husted, J.Cavanaugh, R.McKeon

Absent: no committee members

Start - 5:30pm

Highway solar is up and running. Would like to know the \$\$ saved by the solar addition and GHG reduction. Need access to the solar panel generation data. Paul will create a graph of before and after. Denis, need to do a summary of the last 10 years for the climate action plan (CAP) – overlap with CAC. CAP is on the town website. Number of things in the CAP including community solar field. Reduce greenhouse gas by 20% (this was the CAP goal)? Need GHG inventory then and now to see if reached the goal. Paul's benchmarking will help determine current use which can be compared to use described in the original CAP. Will need to remove the electricity used by the chargers to determine the reduction of the electricity use due to efficiency upgrades done over the last 10 years. Paul needs some missing ChargePoint data. Robert is going to send him emails that he has received overtime. Paul needs 2 weeks to complete benchmarking as long as he can get the data he needs.

Robert, should we write an updated CAP? Denis, CAP costs a lot of money and took a lot of time. Do we have the budget? Robert stated we may have funds for this.

Laurie – need look at Climate Smart Community framework to see if it makes sense to update/rewrite CAP.

Paul – may be beneficial to survey the community...homeowner energy audit to determine the GHG use of community

Jen, what is the value of a CAP?

Denis, discussion of ground source and air source heat pumps.

Zoning needs to be updated – solar zoning does not cover issue of remote crediting and community solar arrays. Current issue is request for 140kW system in HLO in front of Planning Board right now. It's hard to believe that this system is just for the property where is an accessory.

LED Lighting update – Dan indicated that the contractor has not been responsive to communications. Robert stated that Town/Bard has a service agreement that will kick in when project is complete. Project contractor is trying to complete punch list (were working on it a couple weeks ago). Denis said we need to crisp up service plan and determine accountability. Town needs a point person. Second training will be around about February.

Fast Chargers – no update on this. Need to check with grant writer. It has been submitted.

**Future Energy Committee meetings will be on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.**

Denis would like to make a GIS map of the GHG reducing projects that have been completed in the Town.

Laurie asked Robert if the Energy Committee can get a budget. GIS software costs money.

Agrovoltaic zoning discussion. Offers farmer an opportunity put panels on farmland. Do we want panels on prime farmland? We need to talk more on this topic.

Need to talk about batteries/energy storage.

Robert – need to get back to building codes. Hopewell is pushing for new construction to be no fuel fuels by 2030. Introduce STRETCH code or something similar?

Laurie wants a moratorium on oil heating/ propane in new construction. Robert does not want to stop construction but if there is a way to get them to put in air source heat pumps instead of oil burners.

Laurie – ban gas stoves? Health concerns and environmentally bad. NYC is attempting this

CCA – cheaper to be on CCA than to stay with CH. Jen asked for a graph to publicize to public.

Robert would like to start each Town Board meeting with a “CAC Minute” or an “Environmental Minute” or “Climate Update”. Robert wants CAC and/or Energy Committee to run this.

Denis showed the solar mapping tool. It would be valuable to point out good properties for large scale solar projects. It would allow Town to lead discussion with Solar Installers.

Denis would like to talk more about microgrids. Maybe CH can help.

End 7:00pm