

**West Newbury Energy and Sustainability Committee
February 7, 2024**

Present: Rick Parker, Chip Wallace, Elisa Grammer.

Communications with Solect re: potential DPW solar projects. Chip followed up with Byron Woodman for any update following the December 7 site visit. They have the data they need on the rooftop project but maybe not everything required on the ground mounted project. We sent them the site drawings we have available on December 14. We have asked Solect to let us know if they need anything else from us.

MassCEC Beta Commercial Buildings Pilot. The Select Board did not immediately approve pursuing the grant at this time pending more information. Is MassCEC interested in our type of project, and is this really something the town wants to do? Rick has contacted MassCEC for more info, and he is writing a paper on why we should do it.

Municipal aggregation. West Newbury and several other towns met in consultation with the Department of Energy Resources on January 31 about the municipal aggregation plan. Once DOER issues a letter to the town, the next step will be to submit an application to the Department of Public Utilities. Approvals are likely to take less time going forward than they have in the recent past.

Inspectional services fee schedule. We discussed draft fee schedules for building, plumbing and electrical permits. Should we set fees for zero emissions or renewables projects at zero or reduce them to 50% of the regular fee? Elisa has received input that these types of fees are not considered a significant factor in project costs. On a \$500K house, fee savings could amount to a few thousand dollars.

It might be appropriate to raise some standard fees.

Plumbing: water heater or swimming pool. Fossil: \$90. Resistance electric: \$60. Heat pump: \$0.

Chip will revise the draft fee schedules and Rick will meet with the building inspector to discuss.

New business. Rick received a communication from a Mass Save vendor proposing to work with the town on marketing their Mass Save services in West Newbury. After some discussion we determined it did not seem appropriate to partner with a particular supplier on Mass Save services.

Next meeting: March 6, 5:30 pm.