

WN Energy Advisory Committee, March 11, 2019

6pm Lobby of the 1910 Building, 381 Main Street, West Newbury, MA

Present: Liz Callahan, Rick Parker, Chip Wallace, Phillips Robinson

We welcomed new member Phil to the committee. Phil is a recent college graduate with a natural resource economics degree. He works as an energy auditor for Clearesult.

The planning board is proposing a solar bylaw change that would expand setback requirements and restrict where solar development of land can occur. Rick spoke with Leah about a survey of three-phase power lines in town to identify locations suitable for solar development and estimate impacts of the bylaw change. The planning board welcomes this research and analysis.

We are not sure whether the latest proposed bylaw changes are consistent with Green Community guidelines.

Liz would like to provide info to the finance committee in support of our views, before they make their public statements on the bylaw. Rick will be attending finance committee meetings between now and May election.

We should consider writing a letter to the editor to address misinformation about solar development. Maybe also the WN Facebook page. See Elisa Grammar reference/comment refuting argument about property value. Chip to start developing a draft of that for comment.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness. Liz and Rick and Elisa met with the town manager about the MVP application. They convinced the selectmen to approve an application to the program, with Elisa as the local project manager. Liz has done some edits on her starting draft. We need to collect letters of support. The committee can write one, and Chip can sign it as secretary. The application is in good shape basically. The main task left is to get the letters of support. Elisa has written a draft letter of support for people to use. There may be another committee meeting on March 27 to review it before submittal. Rick and Liz are identified as core team members, Chip agreed his name can be added.

Elisa suggests we generate a good news story about the committee activities. Rick mentions Solarize WN program. Liz says other ideas like Mass Save would be good. Chip will try a paragraph or two on that.

Liz received and forwarded a message from Pauliina Swartz on school energy efficiency. Apparently the Pentucket school project is planning to build according to LEED Silver standards and be solar ready. We should look into that as a committee.