

MINUTES

West Newbury Energy Advisory Committee

Monday December 10, 2018, 5pm
Lobby of the 1910 Building,
381 Main Street, West Newbury, MA.

Attendees: Elisa Grammer, Liz Callahan, Rick Parker

1. **Microgrid proposal-** The Committee discussed its review of the municipal microgrid feasibility evaluation report prepared for the Town by Advisian. Generally the Committee felt the report did a good job covering the scope of the project. Chip sent email with his comments. The Committee discussed its desire to communicate findings to the Town, particularly those with a direct interest in terms of the facilities covered by the plan, e.g., public safety, Council on Aging, housing authority, and the Community Center Committee that has a shared interest in the Annex space.

Rick suggested a survey of residents/stakeholders to assess need for emergency shelter; to get more information on what options residents have if they were without power for several days (a needs assessment). The Council on Aging director could be helpful in gathering information from elders about their options if they were without power for several days (a needs assessment). It would also be helpful to get information on the number of residents living in senior housing now.

Discussing the status of current generators, the Committee noted that a small generator on serves Town Offices; larger generator serves Public Safety; elderly housing and the annex are not currently served.

A call has been set up with Advisian, Town Manager, Town Counsel and WNEAC members for 12/14 at 1 pm to provide opportunity for questions about the report and inform discussion with the Board of Selectmen.

Post meeting note – Call was held on 12/14 with Advisian and Town Manager Angus Jennings, Town Counsel Michael McCarron and WNEAC members Rick Parker and Liz Callahan. It was agreed that there would be a benefit to have Advisian present the findings of the report at a Selectmen's meeting. That presentation has been scheduled for January 22, 2019.

Elisa suggested we get a list of other towns that have looked at microgrids (in anticipation that will be of interest to selectmen/town manager

2. **Green Communities annual reporting-** report submitted 12/1; next steps on agenda for January BOS meeting WNEAC assignment.

If the Committee is going to pursue a Green Community grant this year, it will need to start pulling together possible proposals for the Grant. Green Communities grant deadline is March 8, 2019.

Ideas for a grant request include a charging station and electric car. Rick is concerned that potentially pursuing an electric vehicle and charging station could eat in to grant we would want later on for microgrid, since Green Communities grants are competitive and no longer given to every town every funding round.

Elisa will look at the electric vehicle priorities and upcoming competitive grant round (potential project proposals).

3. **Discussion of the Town's possible participation in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program.** *"The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program (MVP) provides support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The state awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans. Communities who complete the MVP program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action grant funding and other opportunities."* <https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program>

The Committee generally determined to investigate this.

Post-meeting note from Liz. I was unable to find a deadline for enrolling in this program. It may be a rolling deadline? First step for West Newbury would be to complete the vulnerability assessment. This is a topic for additional discussion with Town Manager and Selectmen.

4. **Three-phase power survey – for large scale solar development.** The Committee discussed constructing a map for the Town (by driving around Town and plotting 3-phase power locations). It plans to work on this starting in January 2019.

Elisa suggested using MiMap at the assessor's office (available on the assessor's webpage), and also asked whether National Grid may have a map. How will we make the map available?

5. **Energy efficiency outreach** – The Committee tabled discussion of this item for next meeting, when it will consider doing another round of outreach and making Mass Save information available via WNEAC webpage (along with other helpful links for residents/business. Elisa said she can help with the webpage.

6. **Coordination with Newburyport** – Chip is now also attending member the Newburyport Energy Advisory Committee meetings and will keep us apprised of opportunities for coordination. Elisa commented that if Newburyport moves ahead with

“community choice” to push new capacity from renewable sources that may be an opportunity to coordinate with them.

7. Committee administrative items (web site updates, regular meeting date and time)
– Regular meeting date selected as the second Monday of the month, time still to be determined. Need to check with other Committee members.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 14, 2019, time to be determined.