

West Newbury Energy Advisory Committee Minutes

August 3, 2020, 4:30 pm.

Present: Rick Parker, Liz Callahan, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace

Planning Board site plan review for EV charging stations installation. Rick initially agreed to go through the site plan review process for the 1910 building project but not the school project, based on legal opinions received by the town that site plan review was not applicable to the school project.

In discussing the topic with the planning board they requested that the process address both locations in spite of the legal opinions. We are planning to cooperate with them with the understanding that they will provide a lot of assistance with the application process and not be unreasonably demanding.

Rick and Chip have a call scheduled for Wednesday August 5, with chairman Ray Cook and town planner Leah Zambernardi. Leah offered to do most of the application work. The public hearing will be held on September 2.

The selectmen must give their approval for the application. Rick asked the committee to authorize him to seek approval from the selectmen to participate in the site plan review process. Elisa made the motion, Chip seconded. All members voted in favor.

Rick also asked the committee for authorization to request the selectmen's approval for EAC to represent them in the site plan review process. Elisa made the motion, Chip seconded. All members voted in favor.

Liz asked whether it is feasible to get an application together in time. Rick believes it is based on discussions with the planning board and with public works director Wayne Amaral.

Are there any issues involved in working with the school district to install the chargers at Page School? Rick said the district knows about the project, but he will contact the Pentucket superintendent and the Page School principal.

Rick spoke recently with Lori Timmerman (National Grid) and Horizon Solutions (energy services contractor). The Page project requires installing a new electrical service. National Grid will need to bring in a new line, separate from existing lines onsite. They will need to reconfigure a nearby pole, and possibly replace it. But that should not be relevant for site plan review.

Committee organization. Rick nominated Chip as committee chair for this year, Liz seconded. All members voted in favor. Rick nominated Liz as secretary, Elisa seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous. Rick nominated Elisa as website admin, Chip seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Website content. Elisa received some new figures about energy production at the Pipestave solar field. Would the committee like her to post it on the website? All members agreed to post the information.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.