

West Newbury Energy Advisory Committee  
MINUTES

November 10, 2020, 7 pm

VIA GoToMeeting

Present: Chip Wallace, Rick Parker, Elisa Grammer

### **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

Electric charging stations at Page School and the Town Offices should be installed soon. The initial rate will be 35 cents/kWhr. No parking restrictions will apply at the outset. The “grand opening” will be announced on the Town website and with an email blast. The Committee expects to monitor and learn about EV charging usage, and adjust terms and conditions as needed.

### **Future Purchase of Electric Vehicles**

The purchase of a hybrid vehicle for the police is still on target, though delayed a bit due to a paperwork issue at Town Offices. This vehicle should provide savings in maintenance and in fuel costs. Also, the number of hours of engine wear will be reduced. It would be useful to obtain metrics about this, and the Committee will look into means of obtaining data—this could push out the need to acquire new police cars over time.

### **Green Communities Annual Report**

Rick Parker said that the report is almost ready for submission. He will forward a completed copy to Committee members.

### **Possible Future Energy Fair**

The Committee discussed next steps for an energy fair. A prospective date would be in mid May. Elisa Grammer will check with the Garden Club about its plant sale—which usually occurs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May at the Old Town Hall. A location for the energy fair could be the field near the Town gazebo. Perhaps a tent could be arranged in case of rain. With a framework including date and place, the WNEAC could reach out to other potentially interested groups, such as the climate change Municipal Vulnerability Working Group and the Open Space Committee, as well as green interest groups and vendors. Possible topics include:

1. Solar PV
2. Solar thermal
3. Community Solar
4. Battery Storage
5. Air Source Heat Pumps for heating and cooling
6. Geothermal Heat Pump Systems for heating and cooling
7. Energy audits (MassSave or more extensive?)
8. Building Envelope Improvements, Sealing, Insulation

9. Peak shaving
10. Carbon footprint calculator
11. Food waste composting
12. rain barrels
13. rain gardens
14. storm water, wetlands and protecting the Merrimac River
15. planting natives
16. planting pollinators
17. West Newbury open space and trail system
18. Recyclopedia - what can be recycled in MA, how to ensure that your recycling isn't rejected
19. safe disposal of hazardous materials, batteries, medicines...
20. septic system dos and don'ts
21. private well testing
22. Battery powered equipment
23. Energy efficient appliances (e.g., water heaters, furnaces, well pumps)
24. Electric vehicles

## **Other Matters**

Community Aggregation of Power Supply Chip Wallace noted that the Newburyport Energy Advisory Committee is actively considering community aggregation. This would be like the Solarize West Newbury project. A consultant would be hired, a percentage of renewable supply agreed upon, etc. The community aggregator would become the default energy provider unless a consumer opts out. Mr. Wallace will be looking into this further.

Expanded PV Solar Rick Parker raised the idea of another solar installation at Pipestave Hill to defray school power costs. He has sounded out the chair of the Open Space Committee and will consult with the Town Manager, Town Counsel, and school representatives.

School Construction & Energy Infrastructure Rick Parker said that he will again raise the idea of pre-installing conduits for solar canopies and EV charging at the new school while the ground is open, instead of having to pay many times the cost later on.

### Solar at Municipal Campus

Rick Parker and Chip Wallace had been in contact with a potential vendor about PV solar on some roofs and over parking at the municipal campus. Chip Wallace will reach out to see if we could get an idea of costs.

## **Minutes**

Deferred to the next meeting.

## **Adjournment**

8:18 pm