

West Newbury Sustainability Committee, September 15, 2021 Minutes

Committee member attendees: Chip Wallace, Elisa Grammer, Rick Parker, Liz Callahan, Tom Craig

1. Solect Energy presentation on potential Page School PV development at recent Selectmen's meeting--Rick recapped presentation by Byron Woodman of Solect Energy on the potential 711 kW plus battery storage behind the meter project at the Page School. The site is about 3 acres and is mostly already cleared of trees, north of the Page School.

The project has potential to provide more than twice the energy that is used by the Page School, so it will have to be virtually net metered and the Town will need to figure out how to deal with the excess energy. Rick will share the slideshow with the committee and also plans to forward it to the Pentucket Regional School District as it will be necessary to work with them to figure out what works best for metering/accounting for the project. Next steps include having the selectmen sign a letter of intent to commit to not using the land for another use and coordination/discussion with the Planning Board and school district.

2. Merrimac Valley Planning Commission funding. The Town received approval of funding from MVPC for:
 - a. assistance with the Green Communities annual reporting for the next two years; and
 - b. a greenhouse gas inventory based on assessor's info; this inventory will provide information that could be used for planning Zero Net Energy use goals for the Town.
3. Green Communities grant proposals:
 - a. An energy efficiency project with B2Q for the Town Office (a.k.a. 1910) Building will upgrade the HVAC controls in the Council on Aging space and the heating Hot Water (HW) plant for the entire building from the existing pneumatic system to direct digital control (DDC), integrating the new components with the energy management system (EMS) that was installed earlier this year to control the balance of the Town Office Building.
 - b. Grant proposal will also include request for funds for an additional hybrid vehicle.

3. New meeting date set, 4th Wednesday of the month. Next meeting, October 27, 2021.