

West Newbury Energy and Sustainability Committee.

July 28, 2022.

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

Municipal aggregation. Elisa explained that the first step in the process is a vote at town meeting. A recent Boston Globe article could be a good handout. The town would work with a consultant to develop plans and options. The consultant gets paid through contract revenues, not via a town-paid fee. Variables in a plan are the amount and type of renewable energy supply.

Colonial Power is one service provider. They arrange to do energy manager duties for a fee. (We currently do that work as a committee, she volunteers to be the named energy manager.) Good Energy is another service provider with a different fee structure. Colonial sources renewables nationally, Good focuses more locally.

Massachusetts towns as small as Gill (pop 1000) are involved in municipal aggregation.

Elisa mentioned that the Department of Public Utilities may sit on an application from municipal aggregators for a year or more. Eversource has over 50% of its load under aggregation; National Grid an estimated 30%. Pressure may build on DPU to act more quickly. We should be prepared to wait a while once we apply. It may be beneficial to consider working with another city or town in the region.

Town meeting articles are due a month from now, August 29. Chip will submit an article request form about aggregation to the town clerk.

Carbon inventory and decarbonization plan. Chip presented the main points from the decarbonization plan. We should prepare for town meeting a concise explanation of the issues and findings.

Town meeting will be indoors on Monday night, October 24.