

January 11, 2023 at 5:30 PM, 1910 Building, 381 Main Street

Attendees: Chip Wallace (Chair), Elisa Grammer, Rick Parker, Liz Callahan

1. Solar feasibility study update.

Need to contact additional vendors that can conduct the feasibility study. Cadmus did not respond to the RFP and is no longer doing this type of work. Some other potential vendors have been identified, however, including vendors pre-approved by the Commonwealth's Department of Energy Resources (DOER) for this type of work.

Next steps: Rick will reach out to some of the identified vendors to gauge potential interest and follow up with DPW Director Wayne Amaral. Committee also discussed considering, if vendors indicate that the current budget allocated for the study (\$15,000) is insufficient, whether to submit an article for the Spring Town Meeting for additional funding for the study. Articles must be submitted by February 6.

2. Green Communities grant was been awarded to the Town from the DOER. \$32,000 was awarded for make upgrades to the HVAC control system and hot water system for Council of Aging and 1910 Building. The total value of the project, including the grant, utility incentives and Town matching funds, is \$67,500.

3. Discussions with Town Planner re: solar bylaw update. Chip and Rick met with the Town Planner to discuss potential updates to the Town's by-right solar bylaw. particularly in light of recent case law. Interested in ensuring that Town's bylaw is consistent with recent case law. Discussion included looking at including areas under the bylaw within given distance of three-phase power lines.

4. Municipal aggregation update - Still in a wait and see mode. There is a lot of uncertainty currently because of the Commonwealth's DPU evolving views and approval process.

5. Other topics – Town's GHG inventory. Rick mentioned that the Green House Gas inventory tool allows for adding additional data fields. Committee should consider whether there is additional information we should be tracking to help the Town achieve its GHG reduction goals. What additional information would we want and is it available? Elisa wondered whether MassSave energy assessments information would be available.

Assessor's office will be integrating the new software in the next fiscal year. Committee should do its thinking about what additional information would be useful/available in coordination with this transition. Elisa will follow up with MassSave to see whether they can provide information by town/for West Newbury.