

Town of West Newbury Energy and Sustainability Committee

Wednesday, June 21 2023, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

first floor meeting room, 1910 Building, 381 Main Street.

Present: Elisa Grammer, Stephen Doran, Rick Parker, Chip Wallace, Camden Holland, Ian James

Non-Planned Residential Interconnection Upgrades

- Discussion about solar system vendors selling systems requiring IC upgrades.
 - Consumer was told after installation that inter-connection upgrade is needed (transformer?).
- **Next step: Committee to monitor consider warning the town about such ‘bait and switch’ techniques from solar vendors, and overall interconnection upgrade costs (tentative on utility requirements).**

Solar savings

- Rick presented data regarding 12 month rolling savings.

Solar Feasibility Study

- B2Q onsite draft survey ongoing.
Next step: B2Q to issue draft report from the onsite survey.

LED Street Light Replacement

- **Recap:** Merrimac Municipality Light Department offered to assist with LED replacements of the town's streetlights.
 - Note: West Newbury has approximately 134 streetlights.
 - Note: The current street light system costs the town approximately \$1100/month (leased)
- \$970/unit install cost → (\$130,000) Install cost + (\$9,000) LED procurement = (\$139,000) CAPEX. Operating expenses (OPEX) TBD. Expected annual cost savings is \$3000.
- Town currently spends \$13,200/year for lease and \$6,000/year in electricity for a total of \$19,200/year with current street lighting structure.
- Procurement process: Merrimac Municipality Light Department will source and acquire.
- Merrimac Municipality Light Department offered to assist with LED replacements of the town's streetlights.
Next Steps: Committee to talk to the selectmen on Monday, June 26th.

Municipal Aggregation

- Select board is pursuing the aggregation.
 - Contract signed with Colonial Power.**Next Steps:** 1) Formulate which options the town wants. 2) Colonial to revert for next steps in the process.

AOB

- The committee would like to start mapping out the push for greenhouse gas inventory and net-zero.
 - Reference: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-clean-energy-and-climate-plan-for-2050>.

Next Meeting August 02nd 2023.