

## **West Newbury Energy and Sustainability Committee**

June 22, 2022.

**Present:** Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace, Rick Parker.

**Municipal aggregation.** This project would develop an agreement between the town and a competitive electricity provider that would become the default electricity supplier for West Newbury residents. The town would aim for lower and more stable prices than the basic utility service, while encouraging a higher proportion of renewable energy. Residents would always have the ability to opt out of the negotiated supply agreement and return to the basic service. Local area cities and towns that have adopted or are adopting municipal aggregation include Haverhill, Salisbury, Amesbury, and Newburyport. Elisa will talk to people at Good Energy and Green Energy Consumers Alliance about what we need to do and know to move ahead. An early step is approval at town meeting, for which we would need to be ready in late August or early September.

**Solar site feasibility study.** Rick will mention this topic at the next Select Board meeting to get it on the agenda for the July 11 meeting. The Select Board will decide on procedures for hiring a consultant. Issues that might be addressed in the study include: DPW property – suitability of stationary panels vs. systems that track the sun across the sky. Should power be sold to the grid or used for community solar. Role of storage. What funding sources exist that we might not be aware of.

### **Carbon inventory communication.**

Options include: email blast, post an item on our website, contact Jen Solis to get an article in the Daily News.

Chip will write up a draft summary of the report. Elisa will put together more info on community choice/municipal aggregation.

**New business.** What can we do to impact what gets built in town, to discourage oil or gas in new construction? Elisa mentions how aggregation facilitates town forming its own energy policies that might be relevant here. Brookline ban on new gas hookups was overturned.

Roofs should be solar ready. Consider solar orientation.