

Approved Minutes From the Renewable Energy Task Force

Meeting on December 14, 2020

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM

Present remotely were Rob Wills, Thom Whitcomb, Deb Delseo, Laura Lynch and Bev Edwards.

The minutes from the November 23 meeting of the RETF were read and unilaterally approved.

Chairman, Rob Wills, reported what he had learned from a discussion with Tim Fiske regarding a potential site for a 25 KW solar array in the vicinity of the Elementary School's baseball field and adjacent unused acreage. Bev Edwards reported that Tim had told her that the ball field had not been used since Little League had ended in Temple due to a lack of sufficient players. But Deb said that it should be left to be used again in the future.

Rob presented several illustrations of the area in question, near but beyond the baseball field and the school's parking lot. He described a number of advantages that area would provide. It included an excellent south facing solar exposure, its level and solid ground for installing a ground mount, its proximity to necessary Eversource infrastructure, and its position in relation to public viewing which could be made relatively unnoticeable. He added that a good fence could be installed between the array and the ball field protecting both in the process.

Bev then mentioned what Tim Fiske had told her about several other options—the FD roof and a roof on the shed behind the Highway Dept. Rob talked about the possibility of one row of solar panels at the highest part of the FD roof which would not involve cutting any of the trees south of the FD, but sufficient to provide the electricity needed by the Municipal Bldg./FD, and having another small array on the roof of the shed behind the Highway Dept to cover the electricity needs of the Town Hall, Annex and library. The Task Force decided to explore both options further.

Tom then presented a 5 page report he produced with numerous graphs on the dynamics of net-metering to help task force members grasp some of the details of its operations and financing options.

Tom suggested that it was time to review the energy usage data from 2018/19 for our municipal buildings to get a clearer sense of the required electricity for each of the buildings. Rob agreed to send that out.

Rob recommended that it was time to discuss our siting options with the BOS. Deb, Laura and Bev agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Edwards