

Approved Meeting Notes from the Renewable Energy Task Force
Virtual Meeting on March 1, 2021

The March 1 rescheduled zoom meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

The members present were Rob Wills, Thom Whitcomb, Deb DeIeso, and Bev Edwards.

The January meeting notes were read and approved.

Chairman, Rob Wills, opened a discussion following up on our committee's previous decision to explore the possibility of requesting a reservation for a portion of town-owned land near the TES ballfield until we can obtain sufficient funding to make a recommendation for the siting of a 25 kW solar array on that land to provide the electricity needs for all of Temple's municipal buildings.

Rob reported on his consultation with the Chairman of the Select Board, Ken Caisse, regarding the possibility of requesting such a reservation. Rob said that Ken indicated no problem with our asking for that. And he was told that the school never uses that ballfield anymore.

Thom and Deb had some concerns based on having learned that one of the new town committees might be considering the same area for proposing the construction of low-income housing units. But Rob pointed out that there might be some financial advantages to being near them as well as potentially even expanding the size of the array to provide their energy requirements.

Deb raised the issue of our need for definite measurements for the land we would need. Rob replied that the array would need 100 ft by 30 ft. and said that there is much more town-owned land there than we would need, in any case. Bev reminded everyone that it was Tim Fiske, Chairman of the Land Use Committee, who recommended that land to us in the first place, so she suggested that we meet with that committee.

Rob then reported on his consultation with Eversource regarding the location and installation requirements for a potential solar array on that land. He stressed the value of being close to Rt 45 with its three-phase line.

The Task Force then had a lengthy discussion about next steps. Ultimately, it was agreed by all that we should put together a one-pager, including our mission statement from the 2018 Warrant Article, a description of our three-stage plan for fulfilling it, the value of the particular piece of town-owned land which we are requesting be reserved, and the request for its reservation.

It was then decided that it should be sent to the BOS and the Land Use Committee. Thom volunteered to write it and bring it to our next meeting for approval before it gets sent.

Tom reported on the stalled Community Power Plans due to NH's state legislature creating bills to cripple its value for towns.

Bev announced the changes at FERC under new leadership and how beneficial it will be for fighting climate change.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Edwards