

## Renewable Energy Task Force

Approved Minutes for Meeting held on Tuesday, October 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM. Task Force members in attendance were Deb Deleso, Laura Lynch, Robert Wills and Vince Mamone.

We reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. Minutes were approved as written.

Bev worked with the town webmaster to add a page on the town website for the Renewable Energy Task Force. Bev had a written up some material for that page. We reviewed the material at the meeting and were in approval to post it. We also asked Bev to add some information on the current town energy consumption. Robert developed a table to reflect this in an easy to understand format. Here is the table:

Annual Use 2018-19	Elec kWh	Heat Gal	Fuel	Heat MBTU	Equiv. kWh	Total kWh	Heat %
Library/Highway	7,980	1240.1	Propane	113.5	8,314	16,294	51%
Muni/fire	15,439	1464.9	Propane	134.0	9,821	25,260	39%
TownHall	4,461	1853.9	gal fuel oil	258.8	18,962	23,423	81%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27880</b>	<b>4558.9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>506.3</b>	<b>37,097</b>	<b>64,977</b>	<b>57%</b>
					Incl COP	For all electric	If Electric
Propane BTU per Gal	91,502						
#2 Oil BTU per gallon	139,600						
COP	4						
BTU per kWh	3412.14						

There is no new information from Dan Weeks of Revision on our request for proposal information for a PV installation on the Muni building.

Bev had contacted the two other suppliers that we are interested in and asked them for feedback. Gregory Blake, from Southpack Solar, did respond quickly as he is already familiar with the site and the requirements. He said the Muni Building Fire Dept roof would be a good installation site. He is suggesting a 15.2 KW PV system mounted on the upper roof and consisting of 40 380 watt panels and two Fronius Primo ac inverters. The cost of this system would be \$45,600 and it would supply enough electricity for the current electrical usage of the Muni Building including the fire dept. with a little buffer. It will not supply enough to cover a conversion of the heating fuels to an electrical base such as heat pumps.

Gregory also pointed out some of the other issues we will need to take into account. One is demand charges. Robert looked through the Eversource bills and found that the Muni building had incurred demand charges in March and also in December. These charges are not insignificant and if heating was switched over to electric it could increase these charges. We do not have an understanding on how significant this is without additional data on electrical loading in this building. A second issue that Gregory pointed out is that when the system is producing excess electricity the site is credited at a rate that is lower than when the site is drawing electricity from the supplier (Eversource). We will invite Gregory to come to a future meeting to present.

We discussed ground mounted installations that could be build (maybe in stages) to supply enough electricity for all town buildings (3 separate metering sites) and even allow for electrical based heating systems. There are other issues to consider,. One is ground mounted systems are more expensive. But they are more flexible in location and size. Robert described a new tool being used to secure ground mounts – Diamond Pier. We watched a YouTube clip on them, They are less expensive and easier to work with allowing more site flexibility. There is also a need to work with Eversource to understand their policy around one large solar site offsetting electrical consumption at up to 3 separately metered sites.

We got more clarification on what the procedure will be to move forward with any proposals. We will first bring it to the Select Board and then it will need to go to Town Meeting for approval. And we already know that there will be coordination with the Budget Committee during this process.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Submitted by Vince Mamone