

7/15/13 Westport Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

The Monday 7/15/13 meeting of the Energy Committee in the Westport Town Hall was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Tony Connors. Other members present were Antone Vieira, Karl Daxland, Walter Barnes, John Ciccotelli (7:14 PM), and Max Kohlenberg (7:16 PM). Also in attendance was Leo Brooks, a new appointment replacing Kathy Cummings, who resigned. Paul Velho asked not to be reappointed. Absent was Ed Goldberg.

Update on state SREC program: The 400 MW capacity of solar generation applications under the Solar Renewable Energy Credit policy has been reached by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Since Westport has no interconnect agreement with NStar, the future for the landfill solar farm is in limbo, at least for this summer. Chairman Connors stated that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts had reached its goal of 400 MW of solar generation applications and has not published the Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) policy for the post-400MW program. The only projects proceeding are those that have interconnect agreements and construction by the end of 2013. The Westport landfill solar project is on a waiting list. Chairman Connors believes that preference may be given to landfill and brownfield projects. Mr. Vieira asked for a list of those approved by DOER – both municipal and private and he wants the senators and legislators to take a stand on the post-400MW program.

Discussion with Future Generation Wind of Buzzards Bay on a 1 MW power purchase agreement. Future Generation Wind represented by FGW consultant Todd spoke about the current project which has an interconnect agreement with NStar for Marion, Mattapoisett, and a school district. There is more capacity available and he proposed Future Generation Wind charge Westport 20% less and FGW take the net metering credits. As the prices go up or down, the net metering credits would be banked. FGW would like a 20-year contract with Westport because it makes good economic sense for the company. Todd said that a local project will sell to local municipalities whereas a large offshore wind farm will sell to a large utility. Mr. Kohlenberg pointed out that the risk is on someone else's shoulders, which includes the amount of wind, lightning damage, and equipment breakdowns. Mr. Kohlenberg does not want to lock in too large a portion of the 2 million kwh usage the Town of Westport. Mr. Vieira was concerned that committing to a PPA would limit the Town's options and tie up the Town's capacity.

Grant application for hybrid municipal vehicle (Ed): Mr. Goldberg was not present but it was stated that Town Administrator Jack Healey completed a form to apply for \$5000 funding for hybrids or \$7500 funding for all-electric automobiles.

A green Energy digester to produce energy from waste (Leo): Mr. Brooks said that wind and solar should be part of the package but forward planning diversification with methane and biomass should also be considered. A digester makes energy from farm wastes.

The next committee meeting was scheduled for August 12, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Westport Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8.50 PM by consensus.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Barnes

