

10/9/12 Westport Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

The Energy Committee convened at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall with Chairman Tony Connors, and members Tony Vieira, Kathy Cummings, Ed Goldberg, Walter Barnes, and John Ciccotelli (6:15 PM) present. Absent were Paul Velho, Karl Daxland, and Max Kohlenberg.

The minutes of 7/16/12 (with a revision) and 8/13/12 were accepted.

Update on Various PPA Proposals: Mr. Connors and Mr. Goldberg will review the PPA proposals. A model RFP will be developed and sent. Mr. Goldberg wants to see a cost/benefit analysis of active or turnkey projects. Mr. Daxland had looked at the top ten users of energy in the Town of Westport according to Chairman Connors. Ground mounted solar operations were mentioned. Mr. Vieira spoke of looking at improvements in buildings and considering applications at that time.

Update on Landfill Solar Project: Mr. Connors spoke of a physical interconnection with the Fisher Road substation and Mr. Vieira said that ACE had submitted an application to NStar approximately three months ago.

Energy Insight: Ms. Cummings spoke about researching the MA Energy Website (DOER) on Green Communities. Mr. Goldberg wanted to hear opinions on Green Communities. Ms. Cummings spoke of the many pieces of Green Communities. Mr. Vieira wanted to emphasize the Town's budget and Chairman Connors stressed the priority of buying electricity for the next twenty years.

Set up Subcommittee to Investigate Bringing More Natural Gas Lines to Town: It will be necessary to identify where the pipe lines are in Westport. Mr. Vieira had spoken with Matt Zenni of New England Gas, which has a perspective of a 25-year return. There are 3800 customers in Westport and potentially 1000 more on existing pipe lines now. It is important to identify demand so New England gas will come up with a business plan. Mr. Vieira stated that New England gas has the rights in Westport whereas NStar has the rights in Dartmouth. Mr. Connors and Mr. Barnes will continue to address the natural gas line issue. Mr. Connors suggested that Matt Zenni be invited to speak to the Energy Committee.

The next Energy Committee meeting was set for 11/7/12, a Wednesday, in the Town Hall at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment was moved by Mr. Vieira, seconded by Mr. Barnes, and unanimous at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Barnes