

## 1/28/13 Westport Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

The Monday, 1/28/13 meeting of the Energy Committee in the Westport Town Hall was called to order 7:09 PM by Chairman Tony Connors. Other members present were Ed Goldberg, Max Kohlenberg, Paul Velho, and Walter Barnes. Absent were Antone Vieira, Kathy Cummings, Karl Daxland, and John Ciccotelli. Also present was Leo Brooks and Mike Sullivan (7:57 PM).

Summary of Municipal Solar Seminar at UMASS Dartmouth: Chairman Connors attended this on 1/10/13 and reported that the STRETCH Code was seen by some contractors as a competitive advantage and good idea. He suggested the committee members rethink the code's impact. Several members of the Westport Planning Board attended too and addressed the proposed solar bylaw. A presentation was given on the 200,000 kwh solar on schools in Fall River. There is an on-line guide to photovoltaic installations on landfills in MA. The next presentation at UMass Dartmouth will be on 2/7/13 about wind turbines by the MA DOER & Green Communities.

Chairman Connors also spoke on Solarize MA, a web seminar and a State program to encourage towns and private companies to install solar facilities. He said that Arlington was a model community which contracted for 5 MW with the assistance of a sustainable Arlington group that helped their energy committee.

Update on the Landfill Project: ACE requested an interconnect and paid for the study. NStar cashed the check. The Landfill Project apparently is in the moderate category for substation usage. The PPA and the lease have been revised by Town Counsel. There is a conference with Town Administrator Jack Healey on Thursday regarding the inflation escalator and using the price index instead of the inflation index. Mr. Connors cited the Canton, MA example.

Further Discussion Regarding a Town-Owned Solar Farm: Chairman Connors indicated that a Town owned solar farm was low risk with moderate gain. He said the Town now pays a blended rate of approx. 16 Cents/kwh or less, the G-1 rate is close to retail, and the 20-year life span of solar results in savings similar to wind (which has break downs). In the end, in spite of more efficiency in wind, solar and wind have similar savings. He handed out the Future Generations Wind offering as a comparative model. Mr. Goldberg emphasized the need to look at different costs of energy over time to see what happens. Impacts include exporting natural gas, a decrease in electrical demand, etc. Mr. Connors said \$1,300,000 kwh/yr from a Town owned solar farm would yield energy metering credits or approximately \$285/per person in value. Mr. Goldberg asked what are the capital requirements? Mr. Connors talked with Beaumont and their figures say 1 MGW needs a 2.5 million bond presuming new installation. Mr. Goldberg said preliminary work could program two models and identify the attributes before presenting this to the Board of Selectmen. Jon Alden in the audience asked if there are group discounts or buying groups. Mr. Velho spoke of compromises in Westport between net metering or use of companies that would sell to the Town in a PPA. The Town is capped at 2 million kwh and would get only net metering credits. Mr. Goldberg asked to review the models and calculate the risk. Mr. Goldberg added that the Town needs revenue sources. Mr. Sullivan said that the school department may have a site ready for a solar project and there is a benefit in having a third party involved. Mr. Connors said the schools use

more than half of the energy in Town. There is educational value in having a facility at a school or library. Mr. Goldberg said that 2 ½ acres of roof are needed for 500,000 kwh energy production. There are considerations in liability and security. Mr. Kohlenberg suggested comparing panel arrays on the schools versus on land away from the schools.

Energizing the Energy Committee: Chairman Connors pointed out that more members should be doing work and coming to meetings. He would like ten meetings per year on the second Monday of each month.

The next meeting will be Monday, 3/11/13 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Barnes