

6/10/13 Westport Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

The Monday, 6/10/13 meeting of the Energy Committee in the Westport Town Hall was called to order 7:00 PM by Chairman Tony Connors. Other members present were Ed Goldberg, Max Kohlenberg, Antone Vieira, Karl Daxland, and Walter Barnes. Absent were John Ciccotelli, Paul Velho, and Kathy Cummings. Also present was Leo Brooks.

Review current projects. 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 state senators and legislators to take a stand on the post-400MW program. The cash flow benefit has been stopped.

Remind members to request re-appointments. The Energy Committee members extended best wishes to John Ciccotelli for a speedy recovery. Chairman Connors notified interested members to request re-appointments. Chairman Connors asked if the Energy Committee should be looking at something else. Mr. Vieira mentioned pursuing energy from trash as New Bedford is looking for a consortium and he mentioned greenhouse projects and hydro projects, eg. Forge Pond dam to produce energy. Leo Brooks suggested fuel cells, biodigesters, burning methane, and utilizing farm wastes or food wastes. Mr. Goldberg spoke of a 250 MW turbine and questioned whether the suggestions were economically beneficial without backup from the government. Mr. Kohlenberg mentioned tidal generators. Mr. Goldberg said that \$30,000 grants were available from the DOE for electrical outlets to charge electric cars. Mr. Barnes added that natural gas is competitive economically.

Status of subcommittees. By consensus, the research on net metering coverage for the remaining 1,400,000 kwh usage of the municipality through in town projects or out-of-town projects was put on hold.

Initial request for Energy Committee review of Master Plan. Chairman Connors briefed the committee on creation of a mission statement including key issues, conserving and pursuing. Mr. Vieira suggested a business model for wind or solar projects. Mr. Goldberg encouraged looking at conservation and expense issues.

The next committee meeting was scheduled for July 15 at 7:00 PM in the Westport Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM by consensus.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Barnes

