

Minutes for January 4, 2022 YARMOUTH ENERGY COMMITTEE (1)

PRESENT: Marilyn Holle, Joyce Flynn, Sandra Cashen, Robert Palmeri,
Barry Margolin
ABSENT: Mike Duffy
PUBLIC: Cheryl McIntosh, Johnson Controls

Joyce Flynn called the meeting to Order at 4:31.

Motion to approve December minutes unanimously approved.

Motion to hold meetings as remote was unanimously approved.

TOWN ENERGY PROGRESS: Cheryl McIntosh attended the meeting to discuss possible procurement management for the town to save money, time and resources by driving down costs and avoiding delays and errors. She said that Johnson Controls, Siemens, and other vendors provide these services. They do audits to find energy savings on boilers, air quality units, solar, and battery storage for a town and its schools. This would take into account grants from green communities and Cape Light Compact. If the company quotes a savings amount in the management contract, it must guarantee those savings and the town could monetize this over a period of time. She said that she had sent information to Amanda Lima, the Town Engineer and Sandra Cashens.

Joyce Flynn pointed out that the Cape Light Compact administers energy efficiency programs for its 21 member towns, and works to allocate larger funding when a town is making capital improvements or new construction. Yarmouth could potentially be giving up to \$400,000 in future funding if the Town Handed over energy management to Johnson Controls. She suggested that energy audits and procurement management might be more attractive to towns off Cape and not on the Vineyard.

Update from Amanda Lima, Town Engineer on electric charging units. Units at the DPW building are up and running, at Town hall the four units are operational and are going to stay the older style, without the Wi Fi connectivity. One of those has been replaced. It was covered under warranty the equipment was covered, not the cost to install. It has been upgraded to the newer style, and this is operational.

Minutes for January 4, 2022 YARMOUTH ENERGY COMMITTEE (2)

TOWN ENERGY PROGRESS Continued): The second unit is going to be upgraded to the newer style, and the Town will have to find money to cover the installation cost. The Bayberry golf course EV charging units are also up and running. The Senior Center units are also operational. Amanda wants to confirm that the Wi Fi connectivity for monitoring the chargers is working, a question of interest to the Town for energy efficiency data, but of less interest to individual EV charging customers.

CAPE LIGHT COMPACT-CLC: Joyce reported that the Cape Light Compact governing board will meet on Wednesday, January 12th at 2 PM - 4:30 PM.

The Compact's appeal concerning the 2019-2021 three-year plan (DPU 20-40) is underway. The Mass Department of Public Utilities (DPU) argued against inclusion of the Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering (CVEO). CVEO was intended as a demonstration project combining solar PV, electric heat pumps, and battery storage. The project was to serve 700 customers across low and moderate income classes.

On DPU 21-126, the three-year plan for 2022-2024, the disagreement is about ratepayer impacts, with the Compact attempting to provide technology to electric customers who cannot afford solar installations. CVEO is intended as a demonstration project on how renewable energy funds paid on electric bills might be more equitably spent, with the DPU arguing against that. The Compact will soon be appealing 20-40 in addition to 21-126. The Compact has a strong case that the two DPU decisions fly in the face of state legislation and the rights of municipal aggregators. The Compact board feels that it has little choice but to appeal.

SOLARIZE PLUS YARMOUTH: Joyce mentioned that there have been issues with expectations about when systems would actually be installed. The vendor has a full year to install from the date of customer sign-up. The earliest Solarize Yarmouth contracts with homeowners were in April and May 2021. To qualify for

Minutes for January 4, 2022 YARMOUTH ENERGY COMMITTEE (3)

the federal tax credit, the solar array must be fully installed, though the Eversource connection can follow. This was important for people due to tax benefits and tax planning for 2021, so that they would get the Federal and Massachusetts tax credit. The system does not have to be hooked up with Eversource for the federal credit, but it does have to be fully installed. The Solar Wolf delay was partially due to employees who were out sick with or quarantined due to COVID, and five projects scheduled for late December installation were not completed by year's end. The Solarize Yarmouth volunteer committee emphatically stated to Solar Wolf that SW needs to be clearer in communications with customers.

ENERGY COMMITTEE ANNUAL TOWN REPORT: General discussion of the draft report. Most of the year's work involved the Solarize Plus effort. There was discussion about listing outside volunteers as well as Energy Committee members in the annual report.

Joyce asked all members to think about other efforts by the Committee which could be included in the report.

IDEAS TO ENCOURAGE RENEWABLE ENERGY: Barry Margolin had worked on the two by-laws for town meeting articles, but COVID prevented meetings with town employees and also shortened town meetings. Hopefully a meeting with the Town Administrator Robert Whritenour, and then possibly a ZOOM meeting with town department heads will occur in 2022.

The police department would be able to determine the feasibility of electric vehicles and have an exemption if they felt it would not work for their department. In 2021, plug-in hybrids were the most efficient technology for the special role of police cars.

Next meeting: February 1, 2022 ZOOM remote meeting. Adjourn at 6:01