

Boxborough Energy Committee November 2014 Minutes

Date/Location: Wednesday, November 12, 2014, Town Hall

Attending: Members: Francie Nolde, Margo Webber, Richard Garrison, Larry Grossman, Kesahva Srivastava

BOS Representative: None

Guests: Rebecca Morris, Becky Busby

Members Absent: Santiago Tapia-Perez, Abby Reip, Vince Amoroso

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 2014, Town Hall.

Minutes

General business

- October 2014 minutes were approved. Next meeting will be December 10, 2014.
- Francie reported that the recycling bins for the playing fields are in. The DPW will put them near the trash bins at the playing fields.
- Francie got recycling information from Vicki. Francie and Hugh Fortmiller will write an article for the Beacon on the money the Town has saved by installing compactors.
- Francie and MAPC met with Blue Wave Capital to determine if there was a location for a municipal solar system. After evaluating all potential sites and roofs it was determined there was no viable location for a municipal PV system in Town.
- Francie and Richard met with the Board of Selectmen to present the Boxborough Solar Initiative. The Energy Committee has asked Selina to send out the RFP under Town letterhead. The EnCom has also asked to have Dave Lindberg be part of the selection group reading installer proposals. It is the role of the building inspector to survey the roofs that where people will install the solar PV panels. Francie and Richard have to go back to the BOS to continue the discussion.

Main Discussion

The main discussion was about the Boxborough Solar Initiative. Francie and Richard learned that LELD has a cap on the amount of Net Metering LELD will allow. LELD bases the cap on 1% of the peak demand. The peak demand is 55 MW so the cap is set at 550 kw. To date, 12 residential units (10 homes in Littleton and 2 homes in Boxborough) and 3 commercial (all in Littleton) have installed PV with Net metering, using up about 540 kw. The three commercial sites have used up 445 kw of the allotted net metering. Without a net metering incentive, the solarize program will not be cost effective for homeowners. Scott Edwards and Nick Lawler of LELD indicated they would review and then restructure the current net metering program and get back to the Town and committee by late spring with the change in effect by then. The energy committee decided to postpone the December 3, 2014 informational meeting until the net metering cap has been increased. Rebecca Morris will help Francie write a letter to interested

residents about why the meeting would be postponed. Francie will have Selina and LELD review the letter before it is mailed out.

Becky Busby indicated some electric companies have a net metering cap as high as 10% of the peak usage. NGrid and NStar have net metering caps much higher than 1% that is set by the legislature. Some States require a flat fee to residents who use net metering to cover the line maintenance costs. Becky also suggested the Energy Committee determine when the LELD board would meet to discuss net metering and Energy Committee members could attend the board meeting.

Action Items

- Francie will cancel meeting room at the Library for December 3, 2014.
- Rebecca Morris will provide edits to Francie on the draft letter canceling the Boxborough Solar Initiative information session.
- Francie will present letter to Selina and send a copy to LELD for comment.
- Francie will mail the letter to all residents who have expressed an interest in installing solar who were planning on attending the December 3, 2014 meeting. She will also send it to those who expressed an interest or offered to help.