

Energy Advisory Committee (“EAC”) Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2021 - Draft

Attendees:

Dan Rabatsky – Chair
Chris Pimentel - Secretary
Mike Sherman
Silas Fyler
George Aronson

Guests: David Ruggiero: Town of Sharon

Paul Gromer: Peregrine Energy Group

1. **Meeting Minutes Approval:** February 2021 EAC minutes for meetings held on February 10th, 2021 were unanimously approved.
2. **Power Choice:** The Constellation letter that mistakenly went out to Sharon residents advertising another, competing aggregate program appears to have been mailed out before the Sharon program was listed as “active” within Constellation. Constellation appeared to have taken all reasonable action to cure this mistake/breach. As there appears to have been no measurable damage we agreed that their offer to donate \$500 to a Sharon charity, or pay the same toward the cost of follow-up mailing or social media add, etc., was acceptable. We will get back to Paul on this item when we figure out how to use \$500.
3. **Solar Projects:**

East Elementary – All the connections have been made. System has been balanced and inverters checked up to the transformer. Just has to connect to the transformer (which requires a building shutdown). This will probably need to be done over April vacation. Scheduling this and the meter installation with Eversource will be the holdup, and going live is dependent on these outside parties.

- a. Trees and painting also need to be agreed on by multiple parties but this should not hold things up.
- b. Once the go-live date is firm and determined, can plan a ceremony. In the mean time, should run this by the Select Board.
- c. NOTE: Maintenance suggests that the canopy has helped with the ice buildup in parking lot, substantially reducing slip potential, adding to the benefits of canopy systems.

4. **Heights** – Scheduled to go live at end of the month. Just waiting for the meter install (Eversource) to activate. Need to let the fire dep and staff know when the date is firm.
5. **Landfill** –
 - a. DSD is preparing use permit and land use documents for DEP, which could represent a four month approval process.
 - b. DSD has also presented to the abutters, who did have comments and concerns. George, as Chair of the MSOC, is providing DSD with Committee and abutter comments on the DSD applications to monitor how abutter concerns are being addressed within those applications.
 - c. ACO study is also in process, to determine the project's share of costs to upgrade the regional grid to accept electricity from new generation projects. If the project is allocated more than a couple hundred thousand of the upgrade costs, it could be a problem for the economic feasibility of the project.
 - d. DSD could start building in Dec of 2021, but will more likely push into 2022.
 - e. There is \$640K budgeted for the interconnection, but could be less than that. Potentially much less, which could offer some cushion with potential increase associated with the ACO study.
 - f. There are several elevated abutters looking down over or through the proposed berm, in spots where there are few options for visual mitigation.. The size of the berm is limited due to impacts on run-off management and structural concerns. DSD will take a closer look.
6. **Gavin's Pond:** 900KW. Moving forward subject to the results of the interconnection study, construction may start next fall or winter.
7. **Well #5:** Issue is how much solar energy the town will be allowed to take on; there is a cap on how much we can create to meet/exceed demand. We could power the Middle School and High School from Well #5 but couldn't sit batteries in the area to take full advantage of the PPA if we did.
8. **Green House Gas:** David Ruggiero is contemplating an energy balance (as he is with Norwood) and has been involving Eversource and town personnel to try to move that forward.
9. **Green Communities:** We have all our Green Communities' money spent, which was the goal we needed to reach before getting the last \$200K application.
 - a. David is looking at allocating part of this next round of funding toward a town-wide building management system. The system would allow us to see where and how energy is being used, to help identify where the best savings potential might be: Energy Reduction translated to GHG reductions
 - b. There are, however, a lot of other renewable and prescriptive measures to consider as well: BOC certifications, Hybrid Vehicles, EV charging and others

- c. NOTE: Town consumes 25% of energy budget in transportation, but renewable section is there for solar thermal, battery storage, etc. Still looking at options and how best to apply funds.

10. Annual Report: David can provide details. We would need to build a baseline usage for each building and thereafter, annually compare. We discussed the possible use of an intern or student to help address some of the paperwork. When applying for EV stations and other grants or items this data can be valuable for each site.

- a. Discussed how we can better report our building performances. Portfolio Manager is holding data we can use to provide. Peregrine, third party, will be populating PM and we can look at data and reports in different ways. PM is EPA based so national comparisons.
- b. After an initial roll out perhaps Sharon can reduce the half-time energy manager role to one-third time position (with the intern or student)
 - i. Walpole is one format, three different letterheads (Walpole, Norwood, Sharon)
 - ii. We have a joint venture
 - iii. We should look to bulk purchasing
 - iv. Energy Challenge between three towns

11. Mass Energy Insite: Will post at the EAC webpage on town wide energy use.

12. Next meeting: April 15th, 7:00PM