

Energy Advisory Committee (“EAC”) Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2021 - Draft

Attendees:

Committee Members

Dan Rabatsky – Chair

Chris Pimentel - Secretary

Mike Sherman

Silas Fyler

George Aronson

Guests: David Ruggiero, Town of Sharon
Neil Potter, VP Partnerships, Relay Power
Braylen Olson, CEO, Relay Power
Regina Durga, Centrica Business Solutions

Energy Efficiency Status: David Ruggiero

- David scheduled Prism Energy for a follow-up walk thru on June 23rd. This is to refresh and update what they surveyed three years ago.
- Audit will provide lists of existing equipment, ages and efficiencies with recommended energy measures, including energy, savings and cost estimates. Audit will provide a project list from schools and town buildings

Mass Energy: David Ruggiero

- To get Energy Star score, which is generated every year. A 75% qualifies for an Energy Star rating, a score none of our buildings exceeded:
 - High School score 63
 - Middle School 57
 - Elementary 30's

Sharon is a “Green Community” – David Reggiero taking a course in the Fall to best understand and leverage these and others funds:

- MAPC (Met Planning Council) for REP Grant: Submitted to DOER - \$20K award. Mid July for training to analyze energy data and to look for savings and communication.
- Qualifying measures for \$200K (Max) of Green Communities - Looking at the wish lists of facilities managers for shovel ready ECMs when money does become available. Tony Copack will determine what these include.
- Additional target use of GC funding this year might be to standardize with a single Building Management System/software across all town and school building inventory. Right now there are Frankenstein systems that are largely useless, as they don't talk to each other across building systems, school and town facilities. A centralized system would allow monitoring and control from a single location across all buildings.

Energy Efficiency Finance Models: Regina Durga, Centrica

- Described differing energy project funding models, including ESPC and Energy as a Service Agreements (ESA's), which amount, essentially to a PPA for energy efficiency.

Solar Projects Update:

- Heights ES – Tesla energy storage battery earmarked for installation in late August
- East ES – Solar system meter is in place but not live yet. Expect a couple weeks.
- Gavin's Pond: Just waiting to hear back on when and what the interconnection will look like, which will also impact cost.
- Landfill –
 - Interconnection application filed, which could hold our incentive block
 - Still waiting for the Iso study – Pushed back to August
 - MSOC have been cooperating with the four abutters
- High School
 - Buildings with be solar and geo thermal ready
 - Solect Energy under Power Operations K at the HS to install solar and battery systems – The rooftop system is in the process of being integrated and is clear enough at the moment. The parking lot solar canopy, however, is in question:
 - The MSOC subcommittee recommended Solect go forward with the rooftop system under same terms as Heights, but **without** the Ames parking lot canopy system.
 - We had originally envisioned a solar canopy at Ames parking lot but this has become virtually impossible because if your lines cross the street you are legally designated a public utility, which creates a massive quagmire or regulations and requirements.
 - If you look at a canopy for the new high school parking lot instead of Ames the time between those constructions is far different, plus, the Standing Building Committee may never approve it (being overly concerned with the aesthetics impact). The committee does not want to hold up the rooftop system by waiting for tenuous approval on the canopy.
 - MSOC approved Solect to move forward on the rooftop without the canopy.
 - School design will, however, rout three conduits out to parking lot to connect canopy to leave the option open for the future.

EV Charging Stations:

Funding is starting to be spent now: Eversource deadlines are forcing applications now - Any later may be too late. MS is being considered now but Eversource is considering three others sites (town hall and Ames parking lots included). Will be minimal cost to town with all these funds. E.g. At \$70K real cost, Sharon might pay \$10K. Need one installed for every 5. We are looking to install two (which is about \$10K, but that cost depends on where power comes in from and what level station are installed (i.e. Level 1 8hrs charge, Level 2 is 2 hrs charge, and level 3 is 20 minutes).

Grid Impacts of Charging Stations Conversation about what this means for the grid:

If land fill goes forward, how does this impact our local grid: Lines that are “distressed” in Sharon might be impacted negatively. If stations are all pulling will we have voltage drop and how will this impact us. If Eversource will have to update these lines, do we have to pay for it (for land fill and high school interconnections)?