

**Wolfeboro Energy Committee
Minutes of the Meeting February 28, 2020
Wolfeboro Town Hall**

Attending

- Committee Members: Jim Nupp, Linda Murray, Dick Byrd, Paul O'Brien, John Byers, Nancy Hirshberg, Susan Fuller, Eli Roxby
- Other: Barry Muccio

Opening Round of Introductions

Approval of Minutes from Meeting 1/31//20

- Unanimously approved

Updates from Sub Groups

- **40% Municipal Energy Reduction Group**
 - o John and Nancy updated meeting with Jim Pineo on 40% municipal energy reduction goal. Very positive meeting.
 - o Energy Tracking: Will have a meeting with Jim P and Troy to discuss how best to approach getting the tracking back up to speed
 - o Jim would like us to plan in the future doing an energy meeting/charette with his department heads during one of their regular meetings. We would like to get the tracking completed first.
 - o EPA Portfolio Manager: We previously did it on all of our major buildings but our account expired.
 - o Barry offered that he might have some funds to hire an intern to get Portfolio Manager updated and update the energy tracking. Nancy will get him an idea of costs and if it looks doable and approval is given by Jim, will post for a position.
- **Transportation**
 - o Jim Nupp is researching bus service, exploring a Survey from UNH, and electric school bus charging station funding
 - o Dick: Contacted Henry Herndon about electric vehicles about the VW settlement funding. Barry explained that three phase service for charging stations won't be an issue in the downtown area. Barry is not concerned that it would be a problem unless you want it in a remote area.
 - o Tesla is putting a super charger at the Wolfeboro Inn. (Paul O'Brien)

Municipal Solar

- Positive meeting with Jim Pineo. Next steps: Doug meet with Barry to review several options today.

- Barry:
 - Sees the price of electricity going down. Our 5 yr contract ends in 2021, but because prices are so low now, bumping up the timing to renegotiate our electric contract now to capture the lower costs. Weather is currently the largest driver of the prices going down.
 - Wastewater and ice rink alone can use 500 kW. Don't need to go to more sites to achieve 500 KW of solar generation in Wolfeboro. When batteries become economically viable that is where we would do the batteries.
 - We can buy 2.5 MW of solar within our current contract. No risk of reaching or exceeding it.
- Discussion around is this the time with the new contract and lower prices to put in place a systems benefit charge?
 - Barry believes that only 5% of users take advantage of the funds generated from the systems benefit charge so maybe instead we look to the MED for funds for projects. Others commented that we all benefit financially from energy efficiency of others through decreased demand and need for increased capacity. The electric fund has a very healthy cap reserve fund. We are over earning. We could come up with a plan to use some of these funds for energy projects in town.
 - What is the best approach? Taking funds from the reserve fund or system benefit charge?
 - Other option voluntary participation in systems benefit charge
 - What do we want to do with funds?
- How will we achieve the 50% renewable goal?
 - Barry is planning on the next contract providing an opportunity for ratepayers to opt in to buying green power through RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates)
 - Nancy presented how RECs don't achieve what we are ultimately trying to do- reduce fossil fuel use and increase renewables- because they are not "additional". Nancy will send several webinars to people to learn about the concerns with RECs and some other paths to offer the ratepayers green energy.
 - We need to understand what the options are for buying green energy.
 - We can do a portfolio approach. Local generation, contracting for renewables, green power purchases...
 - Barry is working on the contract so we will need to determine:
 - Do we want a systems benefit charge. Make a recommendation to the Selectmen
 - Do we want to the MED to offer RECs to the ratepayers. Some oppose it and some are advocating for consumer choice vs not offering RECs.
 - The new contract to the board of selectman will take 6 months.
 - A committee was formed to work on the potential of a system benefits charge and how to use the money- whether from a systems benefit charge or the MED funds.

Other Misc

- Earth Day Proclamation: Susan will send the proclamation to the Selectmen
- Clean Energy NH Membership: \$250 annually. Barry will fund it.
- Earth Care Film Series: Sat March 7th, Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution, Henry Herndon is the discussion leader.

Next Meeting

- March 20th 7:30 a.m .
- Postpone Chris Byers until April
- Systems Benefit Charge: Nancy and Susan will meet. Other committee members are welcome.