

Sandisfield Green Committee Minutes July 8, 2021

In Attendance: George Riley, Anina Carr, Larry Dwyer, Jeff Bye

Location: Town Hall Annex, 1:00 PM

The meeting began at 1:10 PM with the reading of the minutes from June 15, 2021. The minutes were accepted 3-0.

The following topics were reviewed:

- Review of the Solar Array Project bids.
- Discussed Heat Pumps.
- Discussed Street Lighting.

Solar Array bids are coming in lower than expected, so we will have money left over from first grant. Perhaps solar for DPW building maybe possible as well.

Discussion on which buildings should have solar.

- Annex — Yes definitely
- DPW — Probably
- Library — Questionable

George asked if excess electricity made by one buildings solar panels can be used to pay bills for other buildings. If you use “net metering” you don’t get full amount of what you generate. Jeff recommended that it is better to put solar on as many buildings as possible. The rest of committee agrees that this is the best way to proceed. Jeff said If we put both projects out together there will be a cost benefit. Companies are not involved in connection of Eversource to solar system. That is between the Town and Eversource. This may account for difference between Valley Solar and Energy Resources bids. George recommended in changing the strategy. We should get new bids for solar on both buildings to be done together from one company and then we should get cheaper bids and also a single-phase for DPW and 3-phase for Annex. We need to find out what the “plate capacity” is for net metering. Ask Energy Resource why we only will get 9 Kw from their inverter. Jeff said both companies do not tell us whether the power produced will, be “AC” or “DC”. This is another question to be resolved. Jeff said we really need revised bids which will break down material, labor and Eversource cost at a minimum. George said if we don’t have the Eversource cost in bid we really can’t evaluate the bid. Of the new companies Jeff sent out RFP’s to, only one company acknowledged receiving the RFP.

George said we will basically have to start over again send out new RFPs with a cap. What can they give us for around \$90,000. Who will generate the new RFP? Can we use our Green Community Grant? Should we use Robert Dawson’s of Cambridge Energy Resources? George said we have \$90,000. Who can give us the most kW on the two roofs. Annex needs to be 3-phase, the DPW does not. Single-phase must qualify for Net Metering which is under 10kW. Larry said he was willing to look at the old RFP and revise it to reflect the new 3 conditions, cost, 2 roofs and 3-phase on the Annex.

Jeff said all we care about is the kW on the grid. Over 10kW AC single-phase you have to apply for a cap allocation with the Mass Capp AQ. George asked, “Don’t we need to calculate energy consumption of the buildings?”

It was decided to wait to apply in the 2nd round for a Competitive Grant for heat pumps.

Four issues came up:

- Annual Report for Electricity Consumption generated by Eversource 9 main accounts
- DPW — \$.18 per kW
- Annex - \$.23 per kW
- Our Street Lights are costing \$.37 per kW. We should look to investigate converting the street lights to LED because they are billed at a different rate.

Virtual Net Metering needs to be investigated. Jeff will look into it. Need RFPs generated by Larry to be sent out by July 20, 2021 with a return date of August 25, 2021. Next meeting is August 26, 2021.

Meeting adjourned 2:30 PM.

Minutes by Nina Carr