TIME: Monday, April 6, 2020

PLACE: Virtual Meeting, Zoom Call

ATTENDEES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Members</th>
<th>Excused Absences</th>
<th>Guests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tanya Bodell</td>
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<td>Steve Girardi (former Chair)</td>
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<td>Patricia Gooding</td>
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<td>Bill Fusco</td>
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<td>Mary Jo Larson</td>
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<td>Michael Schmitt</td>
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<td>Steve Wenner</td>
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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

Tanya welcomed Steve Girardi, former Chair of the Alternative Energy Committee.

1) MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2020:

- The Committee reviewed the draft minutes for March 9, 2020 and identified no changes.
- The minutes were approved unanimously.

2) RECAP: Quarterly Presentation to the Board of Selectmen

The Committee discussed the presentation to the Board of Selectmen. The Board expressed continued interest in reliability and resiliency.
The Board also noted the marketing that had already occurred for the Community Aggregation Plan and encouraged ongoing marketing to ensure the public was aware of the options.

At the Board of Selectmen meeting, Marie Caristi-MacDonald was chosen to fill the empty AEC seat.

3) COMMUNITY AGGREGATION UPDATE

Steve Wenner provided an update for the Community Aggregation Plan. The Plan has been submitted to the DPU following a few changes that were identified by the Department of Energy Resources and other prior submissions. At this point, it is unclear whether COVID-19 will cause any delays aside from the approval by the town. Town Meeting has been delayed to June 16, 2020.

Mary Jo congratulated Steve on a wonderful article in Cohasset Rocks.

Steve noted that they were trying to do an interview with 143 TV and additional articles as the Town Meeting drew near.

**ACTION ITEM:**

Steve Wenner and the Community Aggregation Subcommittee to continue marketing in advance of Town Meeting.

4) MICROGRID UPDATE

Tanya noted that the Microgrid Subcommittee had made progress:

- Members of the Subcommittee spoke with a number of representatives from National Grid.
- Working in conjunction with Michelle Leary, Tanya drafted a grant application to the MassCEC for study grant money to examine two potential microgrid sites:
  - **DPW Transfer Station Microgrid:** Internal Town site that would combine existing solar owned and operated by Palmer Capital with onsite storage, electric buses, and mobile storage opportunities to ensure reliability to the Town.
  - **Elm Street Microgrid:** Public/Public site combining Cohasset Police, Fire and State housing at Harborview, to examine whether there are economies of scale
associated with solar installations and batteries. The grant was submitted with a letter of support by the Harborview Executive Director.

Each study grant is worth $75,000 and would provide a pre-approved consultant to help the Town review the sites. The two sites were pitched as Phase I of a Town-wide munigrid.

- The subcommittee is in the process of developing a larger conceptual plan for a Town-wide munigrid.

- Additional solar sites:
  - MAPC: The Subcommittee is pursuing another grant through MAPC to support a study examining the feasibility of other town sites.
  - Ameresco: The subcommittee has asked Ameresco for a proposed scope of work to help the Town examine other solar sites on town-owned buildings.

Tanya noted that microgrids were a hot topic and there were likely to be other funding opportunities. Patricia offered to do some research.

**ACTION ITEM:**

Patricia Gooding and the Microgrid Subcommittee to research additional funding opportunities for microgrid-related studies or equipment.

5) **TOWN SITES TO LEASE**

Tanya noted that there were a number of incentives that would be expiring soon. Therefore, it was important to obtain Town approval to lease town-owned sites for solar and/or storage. Such approval, provided before the studies are completed, would allow the Subcommittee to capitalize on the existing and upcoming opportunities tied to funding and subsidizing solar investments, including:

1) **ITC:** The Investment Tax Credit reimburses developers for the upfront cost of investment in solar. This already has been reduced to 26% (from 30%) through the end of the year, and will be further reduced in 2021, before going to zero.

2) **SMART 2.0:** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is finalizing a second solar incentive program. This will start soon, but will have limited subscription of 1,600 MW, making it critical to move forward quickly. This program also includes incentives for storage.
3) **Clean Peak Energy Standard:** This program supports energy storage and batteries by paying a premium for storage facilities that operate during peak hours and charge when renewables are operating. Again, this program has limited enrollment.

Potential sites that have been identified to the Board of Selectmen at the Quarterly update in March include:

- **School Roofs:** Renewal of prior Town approval to pursue solar on the school roofs. The roofs are scheduled to be replaced during the next few years which could create challenges given the timing of incentives. Previously, the RFP required the developer to remove the solar panels once during the course of the 20-year contract, at the request of the Town. This increased the cost of the energy, but allowed for flexibility for when the roofs would need to be replace.

- **DPW:** Storage would require a lease if provided by a third-party. Otherwise, the Town could purchase storage and install directly.

- **Police/Fire:** The police and fire department have southern-facing roofs, making them ideal for solar. Solar, combined with storage, could obtain a number of grants and incentives, especially because this ties to resiliency and emergency response.

- **Other Buildings:** There may be other buildings or land that could support solar. For example, the Senior Center might benefit from storage to work in conjunction with the gas backup generator. The water and sewer plants have some of the highest peak operating loads due to the pumps. Solar and/or storage could be use to shift those peak loads and decrease demand charges.

Tanya initiated discussions on potential warrant articles with Brian and Chris last year, and again in February during the Green Communities investment confirmation walk-through. Potential sites and the need for town permission has been presented to the Board of Selectmen. Follow-up is required.

**ACTION ITEM**

| Tanya to work with Brian Joyce, Chris Senior and the Board of Selectmen to pursue potential warrant articles for permission to lease town buildings/land for solar and/or storage. |

The Committee discussed the MBTA opportunities for the town to purchase solar from solar canopies. The MBTA canopies could be a physical asset that contributes to a
munigrid, and/or a microgrid surrounding the Transportation District. Follow-up with the developers is required.

**ACTION ITEM**

| Tanya to work with Brian Joyce, Chris Senior and the Board of Selectmen to pursue potential warrant articles for permission to lease town buildings/land for solar and/or storage. |

**6) OTHER PROJECT UPDATES**

Patricia and Mary Jo are keeping tabs on the Town Hall renovation. They will also reach out to Palmer Capital about wild flowers around the solar energy array.

**ACTION ITEM**

| Patricia and Mary Jo to pursue wild flowers as an option to beautify the array on the old landfill. |

**7) MATTERS NOT REASONABLY KNOWN IN ADVANCE**

None.

**8) NEXT MEETINGS**

- **May 11, 2020** via Zoom
- **June 8, 2020** via Zoom

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 9:45 PM.
SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Steve Wenner/Community Aggregation Subcommittee
  • Continue to market and publicize Community Aggregation Plan

Patricia Gooding / Microgrid Subcommittee
  • Research additional funding opportunities for microgrid-related studies or equipment.

Tanya Bodell
  • Work with Brian Joyce, Chris Senior and the Board of Selectmen to pursue potential warrant articles for permission to lease town buildings/land for solar and/or storage.

Patricia and Mary Jo
  • Pursue wild flowers as an option to beautify the array on the old landfill.