



Local Energy Committee Minutes May 17, 2022

6 – 7:45 PM, Nesmith Library & ZOOM

1. Meeting called to order at 6:01PM

Attendees: John Gage (ZOOM); Joel Taft, Allen Reed, Pat Manzo, John Klyop and Mark Kovacs in History Conference Room; Heath Partington – liaison to the BOS - was in the History Conference Room.

2. Minutes from February 8, 2022, approved both by a vote of 5-0.

3. Old Business

a. Streetlight Upgrade Project – John Gage and John Klyop

John and John discussed their future presentation to the Board of Selectmen requesting moving forward with the streetlight upgrade project. Their assessment indicates annual electricity bill reduction of approximately 50% (\$7,500) following replacement of the current streetlights with LED lamps. Estimated cost for replacing 73 lamps powered by Eversource and 27 lamps powered by Liberty Utilities is \$25,000. “Payback period” is approximately 3.5 years. They will augment their presentation with recent (last 12 months) Eversource and Liberty Utilities bills. The Committee requested their getting on the BOS schedule as soon as possible to request authorization for the Town’s issuing a Request for Proposal from Eversource-approved suppliers; Liberty Utilities has already submitted a formal proposal for replacement of 27 lamps.

b. Nesmith Solar Project Status – Pat Manzo

Pat Manzo reported that the Nesmith Solar Project installation was underway. Supporting structures for the solar panels have been installed on the East and West-facing roofs; some power optimizers (one for each pair of panels) are already installed. Installation will likely be complete in early June.

c. Residential Energy Efficiency Implementation Presentation – Joel Taft

IMPORTANT - COVID19 PROCEDURES:

- For those planning to attend, please note that masks are not required for those who have been vaccinated; all others are encouraged to wear facial coverings and to continue social distancing to the extent such is reasonably possible.
- Some LEC members may join the meeting via ZOOM.



Joel discussed additions to his presentation; these include air-vented, wood-burning fireplaces and air-air and air-water heat pumps. Air-vented fireplaces can significantly reduce unconditioned outside air incursion while meeting building and fire codes to ensure safe operation. The air-air and air-water heat pumps can serve as low energy-consumption alternatives to conventional gas and oil-fire furnaces and boilers. Significant improvements in air-air heat pumps (also known as “split system” AC units with both cooling and heating capabilities) can operate efficiently down to sub-zero conditions (typically – 10 F). Air-water heat pumps - potential boiler replacements in hydronic systems – have wide use in Asia, Europe and Canada and are just beginning to enter the US market. Joel will continue editing and formatting with assistance from Pat Manzo and Mark Kovacs.

d. LEC’s Future Community Power Aggregation Plans – Allen Reed

The LEC agreed that an introductory presentation of Community Power Aggregation to Brian McCarthy, the new Town Administrator would be helpful in moving a CPA project forward. Since Mr. McCarthy was the former Town Administrator of Pelham, NH, Allen will check whether Pelham has initiated a CPA effort. Allen will pass this information along to Pat Manzo and Mark Kovacs who volunteered to assist Allen in “re-shaping” his earlier CPA presentation in advance of Allen’s briefing Brian McCarthy.

Allen, who works for Schneider Electric, volunteered to host a visit by LEC members of the Schneider Electric facility in Andover which has a 375 KW solar-powered, mini-grid.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM (6-0)

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