

New Energy Resource Committee  
6/9/2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Alan Pease, Paul McGrail, Roberta Flashman, Cathy Kristofferson, Mark Haines

Presentation by R. Carter Scott of [Transformations, Inc.](#) in Ayer about his company's work with zero energy homes in Devens.

Unitil has 1MW of cap space left and 33 applications in the queue already. The cap restriction would keep Solarize Ashby Community Solar from being able to turn On. Unknown if the PPA is exempt from cap restriction. Need to research the difference between public and private net metering caps perhaps the public cap has more room...?

Mark emailed with Nancy Chew who wishes to withdraw from committee.

Alan received an email offer from a company Lodestar today to sell the Town of Ashby discounted credits at 75-80% rate on 20 year contract. The offer/opportunity just arrived so not yet reviewed.

Our options:

1. buy someone else's SRECS for 20 years. Would not require Town Meeting.
2. find a company to lease land and perhaps or not buy their credits. Lease would require Town Meeting.
3. town builds & uses the electricity and credits. Bond likely needed which would require Town Meeting.

Alan had exchanged with Lodestar earlier that they are not interested in leasing land. They are not interested in the delay required to go to Town Meeting, and they are not interested in the contamination of the orchard.

So... how to put up solar without any money?

Do we need an RFP with 3 bids, or can we go to one company to get cost ideas?

The RFP would be to lease, build, operate, sell electricity, and then dismantle.

What will the cost of energy be for Option #3? 1MW farm is 8 cents per kW

Potential help from MassEnergy or EnergySage.

What is the cost benefit of #2 or #3? Need to contact other Towns doing similar.

Moved and seconded to approve Minutes of May 28. Vote unanimous.

\*Mark will talk with Lunenburg about their new array near the Central Mass Garden Center Rt 13.

\*Alan will forward the Lodestar offer

\*Roberta will try to get PVWatts to produce numbers for the Town land options.

Cathy made the committee a website. Will link to the Departments page at the same level as other groups.

We need to figure out the capital outlay and what are the benefits. Perhaps Carter could give us a proposal for Solarize Ashby. Solarize Mass lets you select vendors. Is Transformations a potential vendor?

The Solarize Ashby Community Solar option is likely out now due to the Unitil cap problem. Left with Solarize Ashby bulk buy and a solar farm on Town land options.

Next meeting set for June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Town Hall Land Use room

Adjourned 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Kristofferson