

New Energy Resource Committee
7/7/2015 Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting opened at 7:00pm.

Moved and seconded to accept the Minutes, unanimously approved.

Presentation & Discussion: Michael Hannon, [Design With Nature](#), Barre, MA

- Currently Unitil has 827 kW under the cap
- Clarified that public cap is only municipalities and state government, everything else is private cap; municipalities as the owner is public but our plan for community solar may fall under the definition of community solar garden which would be considered commercial/private cap space.
- The Design With Nature project planned for Ashby was to be owned by Rollstone Bank but they have backed out. With so much work already put in, Michael will undertake the project himself. The project is for 530kWh per year with payback in 5 years.
- \$25k of the \$1.2M project cost is the land.
- System below 1MW is full credit, > 1MW is 80% of SREC
- The school and municipal would qualify as public cap. Seems 1.6MW farm would do. Cost would be approximately \$4.2 million.
- Electricity produced would be between 10 - 12 cents / kWh
- Michael will produce a proposal similar to Lode Star to allow comparison.
- Orchard as a site: existing contamination; 3 phase at the street. Michael suggests submitting a pre-application to Unitil to see if anything is already on or proposed for the line.
- He would need a scope to be able to estimate a feasibility study
- It costs \$500k / mile to install 3 phase power.
- We would need to provide contamination data. Need DEP release tracking number (RTN). Online.

North Middlesex Regional School District

- Mark brought table and graphs. Cathy will scan and post.
- Total Unitil Area (Pepperell in NGrid) is 1,903,078 for Fy15 thru April/May
- School could lease the orchard and work with DWN separately.

Individual homes support

- Roberta spoke with CES Solarize Massachusetts. Their campaign provides \$2,500 for marketing and consultants to evaluate installers. Also they have RFP templates.
- Alternatively we could work with MassSolar.
- Big questions for us: How do we write an RFP to attract installers?

Actions for next meeting

- DWN and Lode Star proposals to review
- Mark will contact Cedwyn about hazmat data
- Cathy will look into Unitil pre-application
- Roberta will try contacting the NJ solar firm that favors utilizing brownfields
- Paul will get answer about caps & PPAs
- Roberta will pull an RFP template to see how to get bulk purchase moving forward
- Need to add PVWatts link and other useful links to the NERC page
- Paul will get follow up from brownfield installer Ameresco/Framingham

- Cathy will put school charts on NERC page
- Mark will talk to Bob Hnson about getting Lode Star 1st on the Board of Selectmen agenda so Roberta and Cathy can attend before Conservation Commission meeting

Adjourned 8:45pm. Next meeting 7/21/15

Lunenburg (new large solar farm off Rt. 13)

- Mark reports they are firm that likes to use brown earth, uses investors, they are the integrator
- We need to get usage/load details from Unitil
- *Mark will speak to the MA Representative for the Lunenburg farm installer
- We need to get in touch with potential developers like SunTech
- Alan says previously no one was interested n the land fill site.
- Mark will be away 6/25 – 7/5; Alan will be gone all of August
- The next two meetings will be Tuesdays 7/7 and 7/21; plan on the following Tuesdays 8/4 and 8/18
- *Paul will get in touch with some developers
- *Mark will touch base with Cedwyn
- Alan says Lodestar will wait until 9/1 on the deal they proposed for Ashby to buy from their solar farm

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm.

Documents scanned:

[Design with Nature presentation](#)

[Northern Middlesex School District table & graphs](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Kristofferson