

New Energy Resource Committee  
8/4/2015 Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting opened at 7:00pm.

As the notice for this meeting was removed from the bulletin board, meeting is restricted to general updates and presentation from Design With Nature. Official business like deliberation and Minutes acceptance will be done on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

General updates

- Mark spoke with Cedwyn. His employer Hydro Environmental was the LSP (licensed site professional) for the orchard clean up. Need to follow up for details.
- Cathy submitted the pre-application with Unitil. Waiting to hear back.
- Mark contacted Ameresco. They are able to attend a NERC meeting just need a date. They were one of the three vendors of the Northampton solar farm.
- Mark contacted Colonial Power's Mark Cappadona. They are also ready to attend a NERC meeting.
- Cathy still looking for simple reference table for the website; scanned the Loadstar contract and sent to the committee.
- Mark has also contacted Ashburnham and they are ready to meet with us.

Presentation by Michael Hannon of Design With Nature (DwN)

- Presentation is being taped and will be posted.
- Michael is contemplating multiple proposals. His project is currently on hold until the impact study of Lodestar's project because their 2.5MW would be on the same feeder.
- Lodestar's project affects all opportunities including anything the Town would like to do.
- The issue is that their 2.5MW is more than the usage in the area so the power would have to go back to a substation. This is the same thing that happened in Lunenburg where all solar projects, including all residential, are now on hold.
- Impact study is due 8/7
- Michael is hoping his 410kW will still fit in.
- Design With Nature would like to do community garden because the State is promoting them to get 100% SRECs
- 10kW=13,000kW/year
- 1.5MW at \$3.9M cost would charge 20 cents for 20 year to the PPA for \$8M profit
- Ashby's Green Community status may provide grant opportunities for the \$3.9M
- Because the Town uses 130kW/year need to find either one buyer, or do community solar; or maybe the Town could buy 10 shares of community solar..?
- DwN is interested in the orchard site, but needs to know if just in the soil or in the water because that would require remediation. Need the arsenic report.
- DwN's original proposal for West State Road is off the table (due to Lodestar)
- NMRSD would be net metered
- Lodestar = managed growth = 70% of SREC value
- DOER coming out with solar "10n" in the fall
- DwN has structural engineer, licensed electrician has affidavit, is on the expedited list of MassCEC
- DwN will bid on the RFP once it is offered; they will send us a proposal
- DwN will present to the BoS next; maybe on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Actions for next meeting

- Mark will add a standing agenda item for NERC update to the BoS agenda
- Next meeting 8/18 (no Roberta), then Sep 1, 15, and 29 (no Mark)
- Mark recommends the Town Administrator look at our RFP first as the Town's Procurement Officer.
- Plan to put out RFP mid-September followed by 2 weeks for questions, then 2 weeks for responses.
- By the end of Sept/Mid-Oct have month or two to select installer.
- Roberta will speak with Bob Hanson, Town Administrator

Adjourned 8:20pm. Next meeting 8/18/15

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Kristofferson



# Design With Nature LLC

Consultant Services: Renewable Energy - Energy Efficient Buildings

August 4, 2015

Meeting with Solar Committee – Ashby, MA  
Re: Community Solar Garden – 410.4 kW Solar System  
And: possible Town owned solar system

113 Town Farm Road  
P.O. Box 451  
Barre, MA 01005

Design With Nature understands that not all households that would like to take advantage of solar power have adequate roof or yard space to install a solar system. With this in mind, Design With Nature is proposing to build a community solar garden in Ashby.

The Solar System will be: 410.4 kW and shares will be sold in increments of 10 kW. Forty shares of 10 kW will be sold according to the formula below:

10 kW share @ \$3.00/watt = Cost: \$30,000.

Each share-holder will become a member of the Ashby Community Solar LLC (to be formed), and will receive the following:

1/40<sup>th</sup> of the production of the solar system – estimated to be approx. 13,000 kWhs/year at start up.

Equivalent federal tax credit @ 30% of investment =	\$9,000.
State tax credit =	\$1,000.
Possible 1/40 <sup>th</sup> of depreciation tax credit = approx.	\$7,655. (need to verify with CPA)
Net cost after tax credits:	\$12,345.

Value of power @ \$.30/kWh X 13,000 kWhs =	\$3,900./year
Value of SRECS (Market Sector A) 100% value @ \$.22/kWh =	\$2,860.
Combined savings and revenue =	\$6,760./year

System pays for itself in less than 2 years. During the first 10 years it generates combined savings and revenue of 8 X \$6,760. = \$54,080.

Town owned solar system on land next to Fire station:  
Town annual usage: 129,623 kWhs/year  
System sized at 100 kW would produce approx. 130,000 kWhs/year  
Cost: \$3.00/watt for ground mount system = \$300,000.  
Savings over 10 years @ average value of \$.30/kWh = \$39,000./year  
Value of SRECs @ average value of \$.22/kWh = \$28,600./year  
Combined savings and revenue = \$67,600./year  
System pays for itself in 4.5 years. After paying for itself: 5.5 X \$67,600. = \$371,800.  
Profit in first 10 Yrs.

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