

EEC Meeting Minutes August 8, 2012

Present: Charlie Case, Ed Henningsen, Ben Brickett

Guests: Monique Lillis (Marshwood Intern), Laurel McEwen (past EEC member), Jack Bingham (Seacoast Energy)

Call to order: 4:30 PM

A. Approval of February through July minutes postponed due to lack of a quorum

B. Solar Proposal for Public Works Buildings – Last month Ben reported that he has received a proposal from ReVision Energy for a Solar Electric installation which would generate all electricity used by the Town Garage and the Transfer Station. The Solar Electric system would be installed at no cost to the Town (and owned by the installer) with an agreement that we would purchase our electricity from the installer for a set period. After that we would have the opportunity to purchase the system at a fraction of its installed cost.

We began with a very general discussion with Jack Bingham (a second bidder – Seacoast Energy). Charlie reported that CMP Net Metering rules allow connection to the grid and any excess electricity we generate at Public Works can now be used to offset electricity use at any Town building for a total of 10 accounts. CMP also told us that a single phase solar generator can offset three phase use as well. Jack Bingham left the meeting at this point. Each bidder has now been given the same information on current CMP rules and electricity use at Public Works plus other Town buildings. We agreed to leave it up to the bidder to decide how large a system to propose and where to place the panels.

The information in these proposals should be sufficient for us to approach the BOS to see if they would be willing for us to pursue this opportunity further. The two bidders have actively approached us and are very interested in working with Eliot. Charlie will find out from Dan Blanchette if we will need to find a third bidder. We expect to explain this opportunity to the BOS shortly.

C. Audit Findings for Town Garage and Transfer Station and Recommended Energy Improvements – Ed discussed audit findings for the Town Garage and Transfer Station. Now that audits have been completed on all of the municipal buildings, Ed agreed to prioritize further energy improvement opportunities for all of the buildings to present to the BOS in the near future. He expects to prioritize lighting improvements as first priority, followed by insulation and weatherization repairs, and then HVAC and HW upgrades. Ed will report on his prioritized list at the September meeting.

D. Latest on Seacoast Energy Initiative – Ed reported that the last 10 homeowners who have received SEI loans will complete their work soon. York will use the money allocated from SEI funds for Town energy improvements. They will fund their improvements up front and receive a 50% reimbursement from SEI. The 50% investment by York satisfies the SEI requirement (from Efficiency Maine) for a 10% match. Eliot and South Berwick were given an opportunity in April to use a portion of these funds as well but Eliot could not fund a 50% share. As this things currently stand, the SEI loan fund will support

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approximately 7 additional loans per year. Ed has suggested that the Steering Committee search for additional grant money to support more loans in the future.

E. Festival Day Booth – Monique verified that she will be able to staff the EEC booth for Festival Day on September 29<sup>th</sup> and has two interested students ready to help her. Charlie has reserved a spot for the EEC and will continue to review details for the booth with Monique.

F. Sierra Club - As reported in the July EEC Minutes, the Sierra Club approached the EEC to support them in forcing PSNH to take action to incorporate better scrubber technology in their Schiller Station exhaust stacks to reduce pollution - as a condition of re-licensure. The EEC reviewed the Sierra Club's engineering report and found that there were many assumptions used in the analysis. The EEC determined that this request is not within the EEC charter and explained to the Sierra Club representative that their next step could be to ask the BOS directly for their support.

G. Other business – Ed suggested that we propose to the BOS that the Town designate a person to be responsible for town owned facilities – to include maintenance, and as a “clerk of the works” for facilities improvements. Charlie agreed to ask Dan Blanchette if this would be feasible for the Town to consider given the pressure on not increasing the Town salary budget.

Adjourned 5:45 PM

Approved Jan 9, 2013  
Charles A. Case