

EEC Meeting Minutes July 9, 2014

Present: Charlie Case, Ben Brickett, Monique Lillis

Guests: Dana Lee (Town Manager)

Call to Order 4:30 PM, Adjourned 5:30 PM

RECEIVED  
AUG 14 2014  
BY: Wendy Rawski,  
Town Clerk

A. Approval of March, April, May and June minutes postponed due to lack of a quorum

B. Results of Town Meeting Votes on Energy Project Funding - Charlie reported that Articles 20 and 32 passed; providing \$28,000 capital for energy improvements to municipal buildings; and funding to start a reserve account so the Town can purchase the Garage Solar installation after six years. The \$28,000 is expected to cover the majority of weatherization improvements still to be done.

C. Seacoast Energy Initiative (SEI) Funding for Town Energy Projects – Dana reported that the Town will receive \$45,000 as a result of the transfer of the SEI low interest loan program to Efficiency Maine. Ten homeowners in Eliot received SEI loans for energy improvements. This money is part of the ARRA grant that Maine received from the federal government. Allocation for the six towns is:

South Berwick - \$125,000 for a solar electric array on the town library  
York - \$98,000 for a solar array on the York Beach Fire Station  
Eliot - \$45,000 for lighting upgrades and weatherization improvements  
Ogunquit - \$45,000 for electrical upgrades  
Kittery - \$37,000 for a new natural gas boiler at the Community Center  
North Berwick - \$0

Dana and Ed provided a list of “shovel ready” lighting upgrades and weatherization improvements, along with sample RFPs to the S. Berwick Town Manager who has been administering the SEI Program. Formal RFPs for all projects will be coordinated by the Southern Maine Regional Planning Office. Bidders must bid on multi town projects of the same type. Award decisions will be made August 1 and bidders must verify their ability to complete the projects by the end of September.

D. Update on Year End Results for Garage Solar – Ben reported that he expects the Garage Solar installation to meet its projected power generation for its first year (July 2013 to June 2014).

E. Group Discussion on the Phase 2 Solar Project – Charlie suggested that the EEC start soon to brief the MSAD 35 School Administration and the S. Berwick Town Manager on the benefits of supporting a large scale phase 2 solar electric installation. This system is projected to generate up to 79% of school electricity needs as well as 100% of Eliot’s municipal needs, and save up to \$11,500,000 over 40 years assuming an average annual cost increase of electricity of 2%. Recent reports have indicated that the cost of electricity may increase more quickly than the assumed 2% per year as commercial power generation is converted from coal to natural gas. While the supply of natural gas is plentiful in the US, the pipeline infrastructure to bring it to New England is inadequate and will be expensive to correct. Natural gas for heating will have first priority and a predicted shortage of natural gas for power plants may substantially drive up the cost of electricity soon. Charlie agreed to contact the schools and S. Berwick after the lighting and weatherization improvements are underway.

F. Status of Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) Vote on CMP's Proposed Rate Change – Monique reported that the MPUC did not approve CMP's proposed rate change that would have adversely impacted net metered solar installations such as our Garage Solar or the proposed Phase 2 system.

G. FY14 Energy Inventory Data Collection – Monique said that she will start the process during July. Changes in our energy suppliers may impact our ability to complete the inventory quickly.

Approved Aug 13, 2014  
C. A. Case