

Eliot Energy Committee
Minutes
May 11, 2016 at 4:30 PM
Eliot Town Hall



1. Roll Call: Ed Henningsen, Laurel McEwen, Sara Castallez, Nick Lillis, Jack Murphy, Dana Lee. Also in attendance: Jim Tessier and Bob Pomerleau. Christine Bennett was absent with notice.
2. Previous Minutes: The group reviewed the minutes of 4-13-16. A motion was made by Jack and seconded by Ed to approve the minutes as presented. So voted.
3. Solarize KEYS – Guests Attending: Our guests were Betty Olivolo of Kittery, John Brannigan of So. Berwick, and Hilary Clark of York. The three towns along with Eliot will form a private citizen group called Solarize Seacoast Maine and we will be working with SEAREI, a non-profit to issue an RFP for solar vendors, vet the bids, select the best one (non-exclusive) and advise citizens of that selection if they choose to investigate the costs and benefits of solar power. The “deal” is always between the homeowner and the vendor – not us. The Board in York has not endorsed because they think the single selected vendor, even if non-exclusive, will cause a disruption. They asked me to see if the Select Board would endorse the project so that we could advertise the new service using town assets. They are also seeking 2 people from each town to form the advisory board.
4. Solar Legislation Update / Newsletter / Warrant Article: A lot was discussed, but very little is actually known about the effects of the failed veto override on the solar bill and what / when the PUC will act on net metering. It is thought that contracts that exist (grandfathered) at the time of any rule change would be exempted so hurrying the project and get it in and signed now is probably our best bet. Bob Pomerleau warned of “what exactly will be grandfathered Ones currently in the work but unsigned, unfinished?”
5. MOU(s) / USDA Grant: Dana mentioned that Barrington Power is seeking a USDA grant to help with the project costs and they need an MOU to apply.
6. Police Station Weatherization: Dana recapped that \$12k is in the next budget to do work over there, and that the next (last) area of weatherization would be the following year and would be at the Town Hall (insulation, heating issues, some sealing of drafts, etc.) He also stated the solar project and \$40k reserve were a single article on the ballot.

7. HVAC Re-Balancing Approval (June Start): Dana indicated that the Select Board had allowed use of Town Hall Reserve funds to study our HVAC and that should begin in early June.
8. Other Business: Festival Day. Ed had some reservations about setting up a display after Nick was kind of “stuck” with it all last year. Ultimately we decided to go ahead and do a display. Dana said he would work on the 1) application to participate 2) finding the pop up tent, etc. 3) checking with Jack Bingham about a couple cool display pieces for the booth, and 4 he would put together several recommended handouts / displays for visitor to enjoy. It takes place on 9/24.
9. Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 pm by Laurel and seconded by Jack. So voted.