

TOWN OF BEDFORD
July 23, 2020
ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, July 23, 2020 via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

Present: Tim Paradis (Chair), John Russell (Vice Chair), Denise Ricciardi (Town Council Liaison), Lori Radke (Town Council Alternate), Bill Foote (School Board Liaison Alternate), Andrew Gillis, Bing Lu, Sarah Braese, Bart Fromuth, Tom Elwood
Absent: John Schneller (School Board Liaison)

Call to Order: Chairman Paradis opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and read the following notice:

- *Due to the state of emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.*
- *Please note that there is no physical location to observe this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor’s emergency order; however, in accordance with the emergency order I am confirming that: A) We are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access live on BCTV Comcast Channel 22, or streaming online by going to the town website and choosing “BCTV” under “Departments” and clicking on “Channel 22”. We are utilizing an online platform called Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. The public can call into this meeting via the instructions that are being shown on the BCTV broadcast. B) We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using the telephone which is listed at the top of the agenda on the town website; C) If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via the phone, please email us at rsawyer@bedfordnh.org. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.*
- *Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let’s start the meeting by taking roll call attendance. When each member states their presence please also state whether there’s also anyone in the room with you during this meeting which is required under The Right to Know Law:*

John Russell (alone); Denise Ricciardi (alone); Bill Foote (alone); Andrew Gillis (alone); Bing Lu (alone); Sarah Braese (alone); Lori Radke (alone); Tom Elwood (alone); Bart Fromuth (alone); Tim Paradis (alone); Rick Sawyer (alone).

- I. Quorum Count: (5)
- II. Approval of Minutes – June 25, 2020

MOTION by Mr. Russell to approve the June 25, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Foote. Roll call vote taken – All in favor – Motion Passed 9-0.

III. Reports of Members and Committees

- a. Legislative update – Nothing new to report; same bills are still there
- b. School projects

Mr. Foote reported that since the energy bond was not passed by voters it will be a progressive project going forward. The schools will do maintenance and replacements. They are doing some energy enhancements based on operational expense plans and on rebates from Eversource that will re-lamp Peter Woodbury School and Memorial school with LED lights. We are moving through the school district re-lamping with LED lights where we can. There are some other smaller projects being done on an expense basis (refrigeration improvements, kitchen air handling operation improvements, etc.) that will drive down our energy costs over the next couple years.

With schools having to place a focus on ventilation and air handling, Chairman Paradis wanted to know if the school is using this to update energy efficiency as well. Mr. Foote explained that none of the Bedford Schools have air conditioning, so the air conditioning operations cannot be changed, and we are making due with what we can. People are looking at what improvements can be made.

Ms. Radke asked if the auditorium is air conditioned. Mr. Foote said it has active air handling where big fans move the air so that it doesn't feel like a swamp. In the gym there are air handling units that ventilate the gym. He will check for sure whether or not they have air conditioning.

IV. Special Orders

- a. Review Meeting Notes of meeting with Chair and Vice Chair of Town Council

Chairman Paradis and Vice-Chair Russell met with the Chair (Dave Gilbert) and Vice Chair (Denise Ricciardi) of the Town Council to discuss direction and priorities for the Energy Commission. It was a very productive meeting.

Mr. Russell said they tried to move past the pain of the Energy Commission's former Chair was voted out by Town Council. Mr. Russell said they listened in particular to what Dave Gilbert had to say. The take-aways were to focus on cost-benefit and a very strong focus on energy. The idea is that the Energy Commission would focus on anything to do with energy anywhere in the town. Mr. Gilbert was very clear that he wants the commission to go in any direction they would like to go in regard to energy and gave complete carte-blanche in regard to energy. Mr. Gilbert made a lot of comments to "define", "do due diligence" and do "cost analysis". He was very keen on Solsmart, the solar farm at the transfer station, and particularly keen on anything we could do in regard to energy usage. He requested that when working on anything to do with the transfer station that we work closely with Jeff Foote. It seems Mr. Gilbert and Jeff Foote are quite close and we should align with Jeff Foote before proceeding forward. For example, Mr. Russell will reach out to Jeff Foote to arrange for the commission's tour of the incinerator.

Mr. Russell said the things that the Energy Commission had been doing to analyze light usage at the sports field are the types of things that Town Council encourages. They advised not to necessarily go for the biggest project, but to find small projects that we can get done, and then build upon those small projects. By no means should we hold ourselves back, though. We should go wherever we want to go with the focus on energy.

Mr. Russell said that Mr. Gilbert requested that Beautify Bedford be handed over to the Town Council (specifically to Bill Carter who had expressed an interest in it).

Chairman Paradis took a lot of notes at the meeting from an action item standpoint. He indicated that Mr. Gilbert said they could focus on and tackle anything having to do with energy and their duty would be to do a cost-benefit analysis on anything they want to tackle. Mr. Gilbert will decide if it gets on the agenda for the Town Council meeting. Then there would be Town Council discussion and Mr. Gilbert will let us know whether or not to move forward with that agenda item.

Chairman Paradis said that municipal aggregation came up during the conversation. Mr. Gilbert says he didn't know enough about it. There is also a need to get some newer members of the Energy Commission up to speed on it. Mr. Gilbert's thought was that the Energy Commission would do due diligence on municipal aggregation and put together a proposal to the Town Council directing whether or not we should consider it for the town. If Mr. Gilbert decides to put it on the agenda, and the Town Council decides to move forward, it would then be in Mr. Gilbert's purview to create a special committee to deal with municipal aggregation which would not likely involve any member of the Energy Commission, which is nothing against the Energy Commission, but rather just the way it has been handled with other committees. If we agree that municipal aggregation would be a good idea going forward, and we make a good proposal for it to the Town, after that the Energy Commission would only serve in an advisory council status and the Town Council would figure out how to address municipal aggregation and move forward. It's noted that the Energy Commission should continue to work on municipal aggregation but should not have the expectation to be the working group in charge of that. Mr. Russell added that Mr. Gilbert was very clear that he would choose who goes on the municipal aggregation committee, and it wouldn't be the Energy Commission serving as the municipal aggregation committee.

Mr. Russell said that delegation and how we work to get things done as a group was discussed, for example, one group of people on the Energy Commission may focus on projects to be done at the schools, another group on projects with the DPW, and another group on projects at the library. The idea is to have small working groups. Mr. Russell also made a very clear that there were 3 steps they will want to take on every single thing they work on going forward: Define it, do due diligence on it, and do a cost-benefit analysis, and then it will get presented to the Town Council.

Mr. Russell noted that it sounded like they could bring absolutely anybody into the subcommittees of the Energy Commission that we want and it doesn't just have to just involve commission members. Chairman Paradis didn't necessarily get that impression. He thought it was said that the Energy Commission had enough talented people on it who are passionate about energy to tackle most of the things, although it was mentioned if we wanted to work on anything at the transfer station, they should work with Jeff Foote. He has a lot of data that the Energy Commission may find important, and he has expressed that he would like to partner with the commission in any way to reduce the cost and operating expenses for the town and reduce costs for the taxpayers. Given the pandemic it is even more important to partner with those who can help us find cost reductions.

V. Old Business

a. Solsmart

1. www.thesolarfoundation.org

A. Start with Bronze level

Chairman Paradis said that Mr. Gilbert had looked at some of our past meeting minutes and felt that Solsmart was a good idea. Ms. Braese shared the 2019 Solsmart Guide with the group to bring

everyone up to speed. There are 6 categories a Town would have to establish to achieve Solsmart recognition. Much of this has to do with permitting and laws that encourage solar installations. The Solsmart effort has been a running agenda item that got bogged down with other business, but Ms. Braese is happy to put renewed effort into it. She said one thing that needs to be done is to create a statement of solar goals for the community (she presumes this would have to go to Town Council for approval as part of the overall approval of the application).

Ms. Radke reported on the Solar Foundation, which is an organization of 370 domestic and international municipalities, communities, and small towns. She felt they may want to reach out to some of them and find out how they started, what were the pitfalls and obstacles they ran into, and what benefit they got for being a member; that way we don't have to reinvent the wheel.

Chairman Paradis wanted to know how getting approved for the Bronze Level would benefit the town and taxpayers. Ms. Braese felt it was mostly bragging rights. Mr. Radke felt that since they are always trying to attract different businesses to come to town; if they see they are being progressive in this area they may take a second look at us. It could be a magnet for businesses to base themselves in Bedford. Ms. Braese said that it also saves local government time and money by streamlining the process for solar array applications which sets your town apart. Solsmart came and did a presentation to the Energy Commission, so if anyone wanted to look at past meeting notes, reading them would provide more background. Chairman Paradis noted that in the past former Energy Commission member, Mr. Bandazian was supposed to help us with some of the zoning requirements in regard to Solsmart. Ms. Radke has some experience in this area and said she would be happy to help with this going forward and will look at our zoning ordinances in regard to solar. Ms. Braese noted that the Solsmart application lays out exactly what they are looking for, which should be of help to Ms. Radke. Ms. Radke said we could review those and make recommendations to the correct town party. She believes that zoning issues have to go on the ballot in March to be voted on by members of the town, so it would be good to make our review in time to have our recommendations on the ballot in March for them to vote on.

Chairman Paradis asked Ms. Ricciardi if the proper procedure would be to take the Solsmart initiative to Mr. Gilbert who would approve it to get on the Town Council agenda, upon which the Town Council would have to approve whether we can submit the application for the Solsmart Bronze level, or if it is something we can do as an Energy Commission without Town Council approval. Ms. Ricciardi only recalled Mr. Gilbert saying that the Energy Commission should go forward with things it finds interesting, but if the benefit doesn't outweigh the cost; then it wouldn't go forward. She thinks Mr. Gilbert would have to look at it. Mr. Sawyer added that the Energy Commission is a recommending body, so getting Town Council authority to bind the town to an application and getting Town Council to bless it at a meeting would be the best way to proceed. The first step is convincing Mr. Gilbert that it is worthy of being put on the Town Council agenda.

Chairman Paradis asked Ms. Braese and Ms. Radke if in addition to researching the benefits of Solsmart, they would put something together that he could pass on to Mr. Gilbert that would hopefully get us on the agenda so we could make a presentation for Town Council approval to make the Solsmart application. Both agreed to put a staff report together and will do their best to get something for the next Energy Commission meeting. If the Energy Commission likes the staff report at our next meeting, we could submit it to Mr. Gilbert to hopefully get on the Town Council agenda in September or October.

b. Electricity Usage

1. Library big electricity consumer
 - A. DPW has purchased an Eyedro 3 phase energy monitor with web interface. Peter Barbuto set the system up in March to get baseline data during April.
2. Tennis Court Lights
3. Electricity Usage Schools

Chairman Paradis stated that this was deemed an area of focus for the Energy Commission. He feels the 4 main areas of focus would be: Library, schools, DPW, and town offices and all of their energy consumption and usage and how to reduce their costs.

Mr. Fromuth asked if any of the school meters are interval meters. Mr. Gillis indicated we've had this discussion before, and all they have are the standard Eversource meters that bill for the schools once a month at some random time that is why we had been talking about using some of our own metering to gather some of this data. The data we get from Eversource is not very good.

Mr. Fromuth looked at some of the consumption charges on record for the library and noted it is about 26,000 kWh per month (or the low 20's on average). Chairman Paradis confirmed that the average in 2019 was about 23,000 kWh. So far in 2020 (taking into account the effect of COVID-19) we were running in the mid-20's in January and February, and in March when COVID-19 closures hit we began going down into the high-teens. Mr. Fromuth feels this would restrict some of the things we were looking at for the town campus accounts for demand/response and capacity curtailment. He explained the Eversource open spindle meters do not give credits for any reductions you are able to realize at the schools; they just tell you how much energy was used over the course of a month but not *when* that energy is used. Eversource blindly assigns us capacity assessments for each account. He is unsure what the crossover could be by joining up with some of the school accounts. He assumes the high school is an interval metered account. Then we could make recommendations to the School Board where they could see some significant cost benefit analysis on manipulating their usage during the coincident peak. He said that so far this year, that just happened on Monday and regionally we hit a capacity maximum for the year. At the hour ending 6pm we were at 23,500 megawatt hours. He explained that anybody who was able to curtail their energy usage during that hour through using an interval meter would have a reduced reading that would then be used as the highest use hour and they would get a commensurate drop-off in their capacity obligation. If we are paying about \$0.07 - \$0.08 per kWh on our town and school contracts right now, about 30% of that is made of just the capacity obligation. If there was a generator you could switch the power onto during that hour and get the high school down to zero we could eliminate about \$0.03 of that obligation from our future electricity rates and rather than paying \$0.07 - \$0.08 per kWh we might be able to get a contract at a rate of \$0.04 - \$0.05, which would be ideal. Action during this one hour a year can have a significant financial windfall for us.

Mr. Lu said it is fairly easy to do if you know when that 1-hour reading is happening, but it is very difficult to predict. Mr. Fromuth explained that peak events take place primarily in July and August. His firm is able to give their customers 24-hour notice when they think a peak event is going to happen. On average they give about 3-4 alerts to their customers; so that means there will be 3-4 times during the summer they will have to curtail usage because it threatens to be the peak event. They sent an alert out last Monday, and that ended up being the peak event so far for the year. If you look at the weather forecast or go to ISONewEngland.com they are forecasting that this coming Monday might rival that peak from the 5:00 – 6:00 o'clock hour; so, it's not as

hard to predict as you might think. With 24-hour notice we could certainly take action to curtail usage; it's not "all or nothing". If you curtail 10% of your usage during that period of time you will get a 10% reduction in your capacity obligation. Any impact we have is beneficial.

Mr. Foote mentioned that because New Hampshire peak events occur during summer when the schools are closed, he doesn't know that they could receive any curtailment benefits unless any peak events occur during the wintertime when the schools would be open and using power. Mr. Fromuth said you'd be surprised, because a number of his clients throughout the State still average 2-cents to 2.5-cents per kWh on their school's capacity obligations during the summer. Because they don't think they are running anything they don't do anything to impact their usage. Mr. Foote asked if capacity obligation was the same thing as a demand charge. Mr. Fromuth said there is a capacity obligation both on the transmission and distribution side, so your monthly ramp-up will determine what will go into your transmission and distribution portion of the bill - which is what Eversource charges; but then there is also capacity on the commodity side. He is unsure who the Town of Bedford has their contract with, but let's say it's Constellation. They will charge 7.5-cents per kWh just for the commodity portion, and there is a separate and distinct capacity obligation within that 7.5-cents. That is what we would be looking to manipulate to our benefit.

Mr. Fromuth says it sounds like the library is the biggest energy user, above even the town offices. Typically, we don't see Eversource issue interval meters to anybody that is below a 100-kw peak throughout a few points of the year. So, if the library is the largest user, the town offices are also probably on a profiled meter, so unfortunately with the profile meters there's nothing we can do even if we curtail during that hour. Mr. Gillis asked if you could combine meters, or if it can only consist of 1 meter. Mr. Fromuth said we could request to have a master-meter which would get us there; but the way we are broken up right now, there is no way we could prove to Eversource that we actually curtailed during that period of time; so they just give us a profiled capacity tag in the same way they profile our usage. They tell us we have usage throughout the week, even though the town offices might be closed on Sunday and there is nobody there.

Chairman Paradis asked if Mr. Fromuth, Mr. Lu and Mr. Gillis could work together to find out whoever in the town we need to work with to tackle this with Eversource. He feels it would be a good initiative to take on. Mr. Fromuth indicated there would be a cost associated with it. The school campuses which are closer together would be more cost effective for a master-meter situation; but it certainly wouldn't hurt to have Eversource take a look at what that might equate to. The cost-benefit analysis may not overtake what we are looking to achieve, however. If they say it will cost \$30,000 and the plan is only going to save us \$2,000 per year it might not make fiscal sense for the town to look at it right now; but at least we would know.

Mr. Gillis asked if master-meters have to be physically connected with a wire and be truly behind one meter. Mr. Fromuth was not 100% certain as technology is always changing; but in his experience it has correlated to proximity, so the further out your school meters are from the central hub, the more expensive it is to bring them into a master-meter. Mr. Gillis thinks they really actually want it to be behind one meter. Mr. Fromuth said it is something we could look into with Eversource. Maybe they could connect the physical plant with DPW and town hall together on a meter without close proximity, but it is his experience that proximity has always been a cost issue.

Mr. Gillis said that normally the swimming pool running which uses an enormous amount of power for a few months during the summer. We have been trying to determine ways to get cheaper power for the pool. Mr. Fromuth suggested the fact that the pool is closed right now for the summer

means the town is going to get hit with a low profiled capacity obligation. He asked Mr. Sawyer if the pool has been contracted as part of the entire town contract. When you combine all of your town load, they take the library load, the transfer station load, and the pool load. The pool (if it is included in your contract) is actually raising your rate for the rest of your meters because they've got that seasonal usage. Mr. Sawyer said that Bedford's meters are all co-mingled into one contract.

Mr. Sawyer says these are great recommendations to look at with Jeff Foote and Peter Barbuto. Mr. Fromuth, Mr. Gillis, and Mr. Lu agreed to work on this Jeff Foote and Peter Barbuto and make a presentation at a future Energy Commission meeting. They should also include the electricity usage of the lights at the tennis courts and the schools. Mr. Fromuth agrees all accounts should be looked at and we should ask our energy supplier for a rundown to determine which accounts to group together and which accounts are better off to leave with Eversource (because some of their costs are subsidized with thousands of accounts). If you have a swimming pool that is only used a few months out of the year, and it happens to be the worst time of year to be using for the capacity assessment that may be better left with Eversource, and then you could see the numbers come down on our other accounts if the pool is not included. We could also look at time of use of the tennis court lights and other controls. There are all kinds of things we can pull into this project.

Chairman Paradis noted that Mr. Gilbert made it very clear that if there is something that requires an expenditure/upfront cost, but over time the town can start making that money back, he is more than comfortable making the case to the Town Council.

Mr. Lu noted that we have already done the electric bill analysis. The sports field lights have a lot of demand charges, but we don't have a tool to determine why. Perhaps a new meter can be utilized to help with this. Because the electric bill we have is not really high enough, the cost of replacing the lights to LED lights really doesn't make sense, so we were trying to look to see if we could save any money on the demand charges for the sports field lights.

Chairman Paradis noted that Mr. Gilbert had asked if we were "LED everything" and had LED lights all over town, and if we are not, what is the cost to do that. It was also discussed with Mr. Gilbert about perhaps having sensors on some of the town lights (at least on the recreation fields) that would shut them down, because when we were shut down completely due to the pandemic during the spring, the tennis court lights were on even though no one was allowed to use them and the nets weren't even up. We are wondering if they are on a timer, do they shut down at a certain time during the nighttime, and was there any way to increase efficiency. Mr. Fromuth says it sounds like the demand charge is the biggest cost issue because currently it will record what the highest ramp-up was throughout the course of the month, so even if the tennis court was only used once, it would hit you with the same demand charge. He wonders how we might tamper down that demand charge. He is not an expert on LED lighting, so he is not sure if using them can limit the demand draw we have, but if we have a Return on Investment (ROI) it is something to consider. Maybe LED lights have a lower kWh usage which would be a cost benefit just on the demand charges alone, but he doesn't know enough about them to make that claim.

Mr. Foote discussed something about LED's and the power bills at the schools. Chairman Paradis clarified that there is some cost savings, but the challenge is to pay to swap out for LED bulbs.

c. Solar Farm at the Transfer Station

Mr. Gillis provided a synopsis of what has occurred. The Commission initially contacted companies that would rent the space/field at the transfer station from the town, build a solar farm

and just give us some money and they would accept all of the risk, pay for the whole thing and get most of the gain although we would get some cheap power and rent payments. These companies were not very interested unless they could build something more than 1 megawatt. There is a bill that keeps coming up in NH to allow the size of an array to be bigger than 1 megawatt. It keeps getting vetoed, but if it ever passed the power could then be transported from the array to some users and some money could be made. Since that bill wasn't voted in, the other option the Energy Commission explored was having the town build their own solar array and using all of the power for anything in the town, but it would cost a couple million dollars and you would have to have a bond. It would pay for itself relatively quickly and we would have free power for 20 years, but you have to get the taxpayers to sign off on a \$2 million dollar bond so they would really have to understand the benefit of doing that. The town will get free power for 20-years, but the residents' taxes won't be reduced because the town would just find some other way to use that money. Mr. Gillis noted that there is definitely enough room at the transfer station for multiple megawatts. In the clearing that is already there you could do about 1.4 megawatts and if you cut down some trees you could do close to 2 megawatts.

Mr. Fromuth said that New England Solar Garden prides themselves on specializing in navigating the current legislative structures and they are willing to do some 1-megawatt solar projects whether it is them renting space from Bedford and net-metering that power themselves, or doing some town-specific build. Mr. Gillis indicated that the Energy Commission had them in to give a presentation and talked with them a few years ago, and it seemed like it would be a pretty small gain for the town back then. They never provided a formal proposal in reply to an RFP that was put out, which was strange. Mr. Gillis thought maybe it is something we should circle around again and invite in more vendors and see what they have to say. Another stumbling block we faced was that there is no 3-phase power at the transfer station and you need that for a solar array to be viable because you have to put the power somewhere. It would cost \$200K to get 3-phase power, so that would have to be built into the whole project too.

Mr. Fromuth said that probably hasn't changed since the last time the Energy Commission looked into this and would still be a big hold-up in the project, but if something were to change in the future and we could figure out the 3-phase issue then New England Solar Garden would be the one to talk to because they specialize in the smaller projects. Chairman Paradis asked if the town would definitely have to pick up the cost for that, or something one of the companies would pick up. Mr. Gillis said it is something the companies would definitely do, but when they give you the proposal they decrease the amount of money they can give back to the town because they have to foot the bill to put in the 3-phase power and the offer becomes less attractive.

Chairman Paradis asked the group if it was worth it to keep this on our agenda, and moving it from Old Business to New Business and creating a working group around it, or is it something we should table until there are legislative changes changing the net-metering above 1-megawatt. Mr. Fromuth said if the issue is 3-phase power he doesn't think that has changed since the last time you visited this, so he would vote to table it until there is some legislative progress. The 3-phase requirement isn't going to go away any time soon as a cost prohibitive measure.

Mr. Sawyer said that through the Energy Commission the town did a bid for RFP's in 2018 and 2019. In 2018 there were 2-3 responses received and only 1 was of interest at all but it was tied to net-metering increase, and didn't go anywhere. We changed the RFP slightly in 2019 to try and get more response. We only received one response to the RFP which Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Bandazian thought was a very good proposal; but it was tied to the net-metering cap and when the

legislature didn't pass it in 2019, that RFP didn't move forward. Mr. Sawyer thinks Jeff Foote's presentation pinned the cost of 3-phase power at \$750K (not \$200K), so there is a long way to go to get 3-phase power out there at the transfer station although as a town we would like to get it out there so we can do some improvements including safety improvements to the way people throw away their trash. Currently we use a backhoe to compact trash into trailers and that is unsafe, and not what a backhoe is assigned to do, and we've had issues with safety. So, we really want to get compactors out there for trash; but to do it at all efficiently we need 3-phase power. Jeff Foote, the Town Council and Mr. Sawyer are all in favor of getting solar power out there to help pay for the 3-phase power and to help us get the needed compactors for the trash.

Mr. Gillis feels that maybe if the town was willing to foot some of the bill to get the 3-phase power out at the transfer station it makes it a lot more attractive very quickly. The town could then use the power they could get from the solar array to run the compactors so that they wouldn't have to pay for that. It's one of those things where you need money upfront so you can save a whole bunch of money later. It's something you've just got to get the town to vote on. The town would have to pay for it one way or the other. Mr. Sawyer noted that 3-phase power is the most expensive portion of the project. It is something the Town Council is looking at a combined overall facilities masterplan for all of our campuses, so stay tuned. It may not be on the highest priority list, but they are looking at it and if the Energy Commission can help with the kind of ideas being discussed tonight it can bring the whole project forward quicker than we had hoped.

Chairman Paradis concluded we would table it for now and keep it on the backburner. Ms. Ricciardi will be providing the Energy Commission with legislative update, so if there a net-metering change from 1-megawatt to 5-megawatts passed through the legislature she could let us know. Ms. Ricciardi is also a member of the Town Council so perhaps she could let us know if the DPW moves forward the budget for the 3-phase power and once there is more visibility on that we can put the solar farm back on the front burner and go out for RFP's again; but it is probably not the best use of time to turn our attentions to that right now. Ms. Ricciardi agreed.

Mr. Russell asked if there was another bill that had been passed. Mr. Gillis said the 5-megawatts had passed part of the legislature and it looks like it could go through. Chairman Paradis indicated this is another thing that Ms. Ricciardi could keep an eye on in regard to net-metering because there was another bill circling around with some subtle changes that would allow the net metering to be going through. Ms. Ricciardi believes it was HB 1410, but there was a compromise on the net metering that the Governor supported, but it was rejected because some of the legislative body did not think it was good enough. It was left like that, and it's probably going to stay like that until the summer is over because legislature is out of session. Mr. Gillis indicated that it has actually been rejected a couple of times and each time it comes around again more people seem to get on board with it, so we'll have to wait for the next session. Mr. Russell recalls a bipartisan effort to get it passed through at least one of the bodies. Mr. Fromuth indicated that it has support in the Senate; the hold-up is in the House to overcome the Governor's veto.

Chairman Paradis said we would table the solar farm until we get approval for 3-phase power; a change in net metering, or we can do one or the other.

d. Municipal Aggregation Cost Analysis and Presentation

Chairman Paradis indicated this was discussed with Mr. Gilbert who requested more education on this and for the Energy Commission to put together something formal to bring to the Town

Council. Mr. Sawyer said he went back and looked at the proposal, and said Mr. Gillis was right on the mark that the connection cost for 3-phase power would be \$200K. The proposal has the area listed as 1 mile, but he will make sure the Energy Commission has the correct information.

VI. New Business

- a. Review main areas of focus
- b. Develop working teams for each initiative
- c. Develop reporting structure and goals for each team to be presented at commission meetings.

Chairman Paradis reviewed the main areas of focus, and working teams:

- Solsmart (Ms. Braese and Ms. Radke)
- Town electricity usage cost avoidance and cost reduction (Mr. Fromuth, Mr. Lu and Mr. Gillis)
- Municipal Aggregation (Chairman Paradis, Mr. Gillis, Mr. Lu, Mr. Elwood, and Mr. Fromuth as a liaison for the presentation). This group will work on a presentation (using what Chairman Paradis, Mr. Lu and former Chairman Kerr have already put together already in the past) and report back to the commission at the next meeting, or the meeting thereafter with any needed tweaks and then we could bring it to Mr. Gilbert to get on the agenda for presentation to Town Council.
- Freestanding Solar (Mr. Russell and Mr. Gillis)

Chairman Paradis asked if there was any other project anyone felt was worthwhile for the Energy Commission to be working on that we should bring to Town Council, and that any other member would like to serve on a subcommittee to work on it.

Mr. Gillis mentioned working on small energy projects putting a small solar array on the town offices to power that building. It may be easier and cheaper to fit into the budget somewhere. Now that solar panels are so much cheaper it might be the time to take a look at that again. Ms. Ricciardi said although that is a good idea, with trying to go forward with certain facilities, and update facilities and moving some of them around, she didn't know if that's the best idea. She asked Mr. Sawyer if he concurred. Mr. Sawyer replied that if the Energy Commission can help us know what direction to go in, and we can make use of all their expertise in our decision making with facilities, he would love to partner with them to get their input in that decision making. He said we haven't decided what buildings are moving forward, but he would hope the Town Council would take a stance that there are going to be at least some level of green buildings if we build new buildings. We don't really need to apply to get platinum or gold certifications, but having a policy that says we are going to try to build to a certain green level, including solar and all green buildings, is something he would love to see the Energy Commission recommend to the Town Council to use in any of our future construction. Ms. Ricciardi said she meant that it might be future, and not any current buildings that are already there. Mr. Sawyer said the Safety Complex and the library and town office buildings likely are not going anywhere, so if there is grant money to do something on an existing building versus new construction he thinks we could work hand-in-hand on new buildings and existing buildings at the same time.

Mr. Gillis mentioned that another cool project would be to use a free-standing solar array that could be next to a building that way you could tear down the old building and build a new one and the solar array would still be standing ready to use. Ms. Ricciardi thought that was great. Mr. Gillis

said it would be helpful to get a list of buildings the town might be retiring in the next 10-years because solar panels last for 25-years, so you want to think about the future for this stuff.

Mr. Russell likes the idea of free-standing solar and he and Mr. Gillis agreed it could be something they could work on together. Chairman Paradis suggested talking with Mr. Gilbert, Jeff Foote and Mr. Sawyer to find out what town buildings might be retired in the next 10-years.

Chairman Paradis asked Mr. Elwood if there was anything he would specifically like to work on. Mr. Elwood admitted he doesn't understand some of the terms like "3-phase power" and "capacity" and needs some type of resource to educate himself a little more. He read the municipal aggregation presentation and felt there was a lot of good information in there with a big sales pitch too. He feels he needs more education, but municipal aggregation seemed interesting to him. His experience with the people on Town Council is that cost/benefit is more important than anything. Nothing will sell that doesn't have a good bottom line. Chairman Paradis said that sounded great, and they would be pleased to take him onboard the municipal aggregation working group. Mr. Gillis said if Mr. Elwood has any questions at all to email them to the group and he or others in the group can give him an update on what 3-phase power is or anything he may have questions on.

Chairman Paradis said that The Green Business Award had also been discussed in the past, as well as trying to get businesses around town to apply for it. He doesn't necessarily think we should put it on New Business right now but thinks it should be on the backburner for somebody to talk about during Fall in order to work up to making the award on Earth Day (April). He thinks it is a good community unity initiative that should not be forgotten entirely.

Mr. Russell indicated he'd been looking into the Energy Commission taking an incinerator tour and asked if he should continue to reach out to Jeff Foote to arrange it, and if Mr. Elwood might want to work on that with him. Mr. Elwood said he was game. Chairman Paradis's only reservation was the limitations we have given the pandemic, and not wanting to go on a tour with a big group of people, and due to the current environment it might be better to wait. They agreed.

VII. Reminders: Next upcoming meeting is Thursday, August 27, 2020

Mr. Sawyer indicated the BCTV meeting studio can only safely accommodate 5 board members sitting socially distanced in the horseshoe seating, and only 10 members of the public in the audience. He said no other boards are attempting to meet in person in August. There is only one board attempting to meet in person during the month of September. Because of these limitations it was determined by the group that the August meeting of the Energy Commission would still be held via Zoom.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Gillis at 8:27 P.M. Seconded by Ms. Braese. Roll call vote taken- Motion Passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tiffany Lewis