

Thetford Energy Committee 5/12/15 Draft Minutes

Meeting started: 5:10

TEC Attendees: Chris Hebb, Bob Walker, Mike Kiess, Joel Legunn, Ellen Blumberg, Alice Stewart

Others: Phebe McCosker

Review and approve minutes from 3/10/15 meeting - motion to approve by Mike. Seconded by Ellen. Accepted unanimously as written.

Financial Report – provided by the Treasurer.

Community Solar Updates and Discussion –

- Mike updated on solar survey replies and capacity: Out of 60 responses, about 50 Thetford responses, about 6000 kWh annual average – very roughly 300,000kWh total.
- Our thoughts – we should build 350kW capacity array at Elementary school as our first focus, Post Mills landfill 150 kW array as a second choice/project.
- Rationale:
 - o Post Mills landfill requires re-activation of trust, sale to town, permission to build by ANR.
 - o Elementary school land requires permission of school board.
- 350 kW array requires full CPG application. Maybe we can get help from Vermont Law School to write an RFP which includes CPG application.
- Our consensus is the volunteer labor model is not a good fit for us.
- Financing models:
 1. External investors
 2. Financing by entities who buy in
 3. TEC/town acts as investor and sells shares to people

Bob and Mike and Phebe try to make first draft of TEC solar plan based on VLS guide. Review guide and meet by teleconference week of 25 May.

Dori Wolfe re Elizabeth Mine PV Project

Letter of Support from Thetford TEC requested. Also introduction to Thetford neighbors of the site. Project is moving forward through act 248 review process. 4.99 MW power production with all purchased by GMP, which will retain the RECs. 3 phase interconnection capability from S. Strafford to the mine site is in process – will cost about \$3 Million. Project needs to be done by end of 2016. Construction traffic will follow same route as Elizabeth Mine reclamation – Rt. 132 to Tyson Rd. to Mine Rd. Dori will be approaching all neighbors of the site to notify them of pending development. Both Thetford and Strafford will benefit from tax base. Operating LLC company is Elizabeth Mine Solar 1. Investor will provide capital in return for tax credits. Developer – Brightfields from Wellesley, MASS, have brownfields experience. Separate bids for Engineering and Investors. Project will contribute to site maintenance cost. TEC could describe how solar project fits with our Town Plan. Following the meeting, Dori emailed Bob that she did more homework, talking with Thetford listers and checking with the PV Value at the state. Dori estimates that the first year value of expected production at the Elizabeth Mine is about \$1 MM, producing municipal tax a rate of \$.70/\$100 or about \$7,500 shared between Thetford and Strafford. Mike will draft letter for TEC and Dori to review, by May 25th. Dori will plan to attend 25 May 15 select board meeting.

Energy Tip – Alice will use annual tip on keeping the house cool.

Next TEC Meeting Date – June 9, 2015