



TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

ENERGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES: JUNE 13, 2016

Members: ☒ Tom Hall, ☒ Carlton D. Hunt, ☐ TBD

Approved August 9, 2016

Guests: Andrew DeIonno and Lisa Sullivan of the Bridgewater Community and Economic Development Office (CED); Isaac Maze-Rothstein, Community Outreach Coordinator, Solstice Initiative

The first meeting of the duly appointed Energy Committee was called to order at the Memorial Building at 4 PM June 13, 2016. By consensus Carlton Hunt acted as the presiding officer continuing his role from the former Master Plan Implementation and Energy Committee. The quorum being met, the agenda was approved with the formal organization of the committee officers being postponed until the next meeting.

Energy aggregation was next considered. The discussion revolved around the Community Solar concepts advocated by the Solstice Initiative. Isaac briefed the participants on the recent activity of Solstice including the two solar fields they access to connect businesses, organizations, and individual consumers with lower energy rates (~10 %). He also presented a draft MOU and a Solstice Community Solar marketing flyer for consideration by the Town. The MOU relates to potential development of a Community Solar field constructed on publicly owned land in Bridgewater. The MOU content will be referred to the Town Manager and Town Attorney for review and for Town Council action as necessary.

Isaac indicated the First Parish church has signed up for community solar and asked if the committee and guests knew of others in town who might be interested in purchasing power through the Community Solar initiative. The discussion led to an action for Carlton to reach out to the Bridgewater Business Association to seek interest in a briefing by Solstice. A motion for the energy committee to provide Solstice information as a public service was offered and passed. The Energy Committee agreed to draft a letter of introduction for Solstice as they seek other clients in town. Questions regarding the contact term, rates and cancellation clauses for Community Solar brokered by Solstice were raised as important topics to directly address in any "marketing" effort by Solstice.

The recently awarded contract to Colonial Energy by the Old Colony Planning Council for energy aggregation was discussed. The committee consensus was for Carlton and the CED staff to meet with the Town Manager to gauge his interest in moving forward with the contract (no cost to the town) with Colonial to have an opt-out energy supplier facilitated through the Colonial contract. Andrew noted the Town Attorney's review of the documents provided to date were unfavorable.

Lisa provided a brief review of the Green Community FY16 competitive bid status. No word on the expected award date has been received.

The status of the "Fireworks Circle" Energy Credits was discussed. The town is still working with National GRID to finalize the credits due since the field came on line in August 2015. The owner of the solar field has requested payment in full for the energy generated since August 2015 and is working to increase the field output to ensure it meets the contracted year 3 minimum output.

Andrew noted that the Constellation contract is due for renewal this fall. Lisa and Carlton plan to work with the school district to bring its Bridgewater buildings into the Town's Green Communities energy reduction plan to enable the District and Town access competitive grant funds in FY17.

Discussion of energy related ordinances was postponed until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM. The next meeting is TBD.

Carlton D. Hunt 8/9/2016

Submitted by Carlton D. Hunt, Ph.D.