

Meeting Minutes 20151013

Town of Underhill
Energy Committee
13 October 2015

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Jerry Adams, Pete Bennett, Peter Duval(6:40), Chris Miller, Tom Moore, and Steve Webster in attendance and constituting a quorum, the regular meeting was called to order at 6:35pm in the Town Hall Kitchen, with Chris in the chair and Peter D. recording minutes as secretary.

Agenda

Public Comment
Meeting Minutes
Solar Siting
Streetlighting
Solar Farm at the Town Landfill

Public Comment

None

Minutes

MOTION

Tom MOVED, and Steve SECONDED, to accept the minutes of 08 September 2015 as submitted. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Solar Siting

Jerry reported that the town plan will go to the voters for approval and that Cynthia Seybolt would like to add a specific reference to solar and wind affecting views from the road.

6:46

Streetlighting

Chris reported that Bob is continuing to work on collecting information and that there is no rush, as the program is fully subscribed for 2015.

6:50

Landfill Solar Farm

Will and Victor Veve arrived to discuss a proposal to construct a solar farm on the town landfill. Will proceeded by describing his partnership with Kirt Maryland, a Connecticut solar developer with 8 years of experience and 20MW of developed solar farms. Maryland has experience with brownfield solar.

Will described a project at the missile silo site in Alburgh. He described good relations with Vermont Electric Co-op, the utility which serves the landfill

Access to power was discussed, which resulted in a scaling back of the proposed project from 500kW to 145kW – single phase, no “recloser.” 1 acre of the landfill would be used and a lease of \$2–2.5k/acre-year with a 1–2% escalator would be agreeable. A tax agreement would be made and the lease would run 20–30 years. The town would also benefit from a 20–30% electrical bill reduction.

Additional details discussed.

There would be no cost to the town. Fitzgerald Engineering would provide project engineering, LandWorks would do the visual study, and James Clancy would be the electrical engineer.

Will said that they are developing a 3–5 acre/500kW project in the Xenophon Drive area of Jericho.

They have also optioned solar development rights at the Manosh asbestos mine.

30% of projects fail. There is time pressure, as the Federal Investment Tax Credit will be reduced from 30% to 10% for projects completed after December 31, 2016. It will be 2–4 years before the next window of opportunity.

The Veves departed.

Discussion of the merits and issues. Steve said that the time pressure is real and that there is not much expectation of a reauthorization of the tax credit. Peter and Chris supported moving forward for the opportunity to learn about the development process.

Tom knows the Veves through his son, and volunteered to be the contact person for them. Pete B. offered to research the political and business aspects of the project and report to the committee.

MOTION

Tom MOVED, and Jerry SECONDED, to put effort into moving the project forward to see if it something that the town should do. Passed

UNANIMOUSLY.

Chris plans to set the next meeting for Tuesday at 6:30pm in the Town Hall Kitchen.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Pete B. MOVED, and Tom SECONDED to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed UNANIMOUSLY at 8:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Duval, Secretary

Approved _____
date: _____

Chris Miller, Chair