

**TOWN OF UNDERHILL
ENERGY COMMITTEE
Underhill Town Hall
Meeting Minutes Final
Wednesday, Oct 11 , 2017**

Meeting called to Order 6:30 pm

Quorum established. Underhill Energy Committee (UEC) members in attendance: Peter Bennett (PB), Nicole Bourassa (NB), Ruth Julienelle (RJ), Jerry Adams (JA), Michael Oman (MO), Dwight DeCoster (DD), Tom Moore (TM)

Also attending: Kurt Johnson (KJ) Underhill Selectboard (SB), Steve Webster (SW) former UEC member, Brian Bigelow (BB) Town Administrator

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM, with NB recording motions, votes.

Adjustments to Agenda

Moved solar roof possibilities discussion to follow solar landfill proposal

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Reviewed/Approved Minutes from Sept 20, 2017

Motion by TM to accept the minutes of 9/20/17 amended to reflect that the UEC agreed that it could not determine at this time whether the Fire Department proposal for a substation would impact plans for a solar system on the capped landfill. Passed unanimously.

Discussed Green Lantern Group (GLG) Solar Landfill Proposal

PB restated importance of such a project:

- UEC believes in contribution solar energy makes in fighting climate change
- would benefit the town upwards of \$5000 per year
- project would contribute to town renewable energy goals under CCRPC regional energy plan requirements

Recent info from GLG

- rules on how many group net metered projects town can be involved in: 500 KW total
- who gets investment tax credit, how much: owners of array, 30%
- basis for tax payment to town: GLG's estimate based on official Vt Tax Department guidelines; will check with our assessor
- sale of REC's: to owners @3¢/kwh for ten years
- other possible customers for credits: non-residential

Reviewed issues

1. Process: UEC will study issues, report to SB and attend 10/24/17 SB meeting
2. Legal: not in position to review Option to Lease from legal standpoint; must be determined by SB
 - discussed whether risks were fully understood
3. Technical
 - Would be group net metered project with Vt Electric Co-op
 - 150 KW with estimated 210,000 kwh generated per year
 - similarities to Cambridge (will talk to them)
4. Financial
 - estimate of revenues/bottom line to GLG
 - estimate of financial benefits to town
5. Aesthetic issues: motion by TM for PB to contact Conservation Committee and invite them to a site visit to hear their concerns. Passed unanimously. PB to check open meeting law to determine limits on number of committee members before meeting must be warned.
6. On going town responsibilities if lease signed
 - monitoring (test wells) and costs
 - risk of damaging cap on landfill – solar array owner must take this risk
 - decommissioning responsibilities and cost - solar array owner
7. Option terms
 - negotiating process if Option agreed to
 - before agreeing, SB would solicit other proposals
 - need thorough examination of any risk to town
 - agreement on cost of credits included in lease agreement
 - lease and tax payments to town
 - on going access to array by tenant
8. other issues
 - questions of control if not owned by town
 - confirm how solar adder applies to this project
 - is this the best model for Underhill?
 - is there a time issue due to the pending tariff on solar panels?
9. Next steps
 - agree on where we stand, what are remaining questions
 - UEC will not make recommendation to sign option until other proposals are reviewed. PB to discuss with SB to see if they should solicit other proposals now.

School roof solar possibility - Kurt Johnson

KJ reviewed his conversations with Jeff Forward (JF) of CESU regarding possible use of school roof for solar array. MO also talked to JF.
This could offer savings to Town Hall (in GMP area) electric costs, not available from a landfill solar array
Size dictates whether it would be a benefit to Town only; if larger, possibly a group net metered project
Town would need to have a developer do the project as town does not have funds to finance.
UEC will explore, including looking at similar school roof projects.

Button Up residential efficiency project – TM and DD

DD reported that he had MOU from Efficiency Vermont and recommended we go ahead and sign it as we could opt out at any time.
Motion made by RJ to have DD sign the MOU with Button Up for Underhill EC participation. Passed unanimously
UEC was not certain it has the manpower and time at this date to carry out.
DD and TM will continue to explore

Next regularly scheduled meeting – Nov 8, 2017

Adjournment

On motion by PB meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by



Peter Bennett
Nicole Bourassa