

Minutes

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular meeting, Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Easton Town Hall, conference room A, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Jeff Borofsky, Bobby Morganti

Absent: Katie Callahan, Lise Fleurette

No members of the public in attendance

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:41

Minutes from January regular meeting

Motion to approve minutes: Bobby. Second: Jeff. Passed.

Minutes from January special meeting

Motion to approve: Bobby. Second: Jeff. Passed.

Solar update

In January, Phase II produced 58% of anticipated energy. Cathy reported this was consistent across the entire portfolio; no data for Phase I

Brief discussion on preparing a short summary of costs and savings in easy to read format should this be necessary. Cathy and Bobby will look into this.

EV update, next steps

Our grant is currently on hold. The TF is exploring the possibility of using the grant funding with a somewhat different plan; will update as more information becomes available. DEEP reported there is some flexibility on the details of our project, but not on the amount of funding. They will send us a revised SOW for review; a revised deadline for project completion has been extended to June 2025.

Briefly discussed applying to UI's program under the workplace incentive category.

Virtual net metering

Cathy and Bobby met recently with various parties involved with VNM; essentially, a project anywhere in UI territory may provide credits for municipal "beneficiary accounts" to offset energy costs; the town would not need to take on a project to gain the discounts; eligible accounts must be municipal or agricultural in order to qualify; it involves a 20-year contract but is likely a good fit for a town like Easton (eliminates the need for us to manage a local project).

- Cathy reported that Green Bank also recommends VNM.
- They have offered to assist in an advisory position if we decide to pursue a project with a private sector contractor: Green Bank could potentially review offers and advise on contract negotiations.
- A potential project had recently come up, but had a very short timeline; Cathy suggested we let the vendor know that March 14 is too short a timeline for us; Bobby will communicate with them.

Discussed pros and cons of onsite solar vs. the equivalency of receiving VNM credits from an off-site system outside of town.

Plans/projects for 2024

Discussion/suggestions:

- Add Virtual Net Metering to the list
- Repair Cafe
- Take2 recycling and e-recycling, possibly both on the same day in May; Cathy will reach out to Katie and SSES
- Heidi will look through town calendars for major events (police, library, school, town)

There was no discussion for Agenda item "Other".

Motion to Adjourn Bobby, second, Heidi.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 8:49

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, EEETF
Monday, March 11, 2024