

Springfield Energy Committee

Meeting: 7/13/2023

Time: 5:30pm

Attendance: Amy Lewis, Jessalyn Straniti, Theresa Quinn, Steve Dzubak

Minutes:

The meeting started at 5:35pm. Steve started by discussing the next steps for the committee regarding Community Power, which is to review the Joint Power Agreement. All committee members should review so that at the next meeting the committee can discuss and create a one-page summary to be provided to the Select Board. Once the Energy Committee has accomplished that, the next step will be to provide the summary to the Select Board and provide a summary in person at one of the Select Board meetings. The Select Board will have to be comfortable with the Joint Power Agreement and sign the agreement before any next steps can proceed. Committee members agreed to review before the next meeting in August.

Next, Jessalyn discussed the Summer Celebration on 7/15/2023. Since Jessalyn was attending as part of the recreation committee. Theresa volunteered to be available for both the Kolelemook Lake Association and Energy Committee. Theresa volunteered to create a sign for the Energy Committee and engage with residents.

Steve then discussed the next steps for municipal solar. Tamara sent Steve the digital records from Eversource of all energy usage for 2022. Steve will sum the energy usage to determine the total kwhs used at all town meters, which include the Highway and Fire building, the Meeting House, the Historical Society Building, the Old Highway Garage, and the Town Offices and Library. The committee discussed the best approach for municipal solar generally, which is to have a rooftop solar array connected behind an existing meter as it provides the best economic value and return on investment. The next most economical option would be a ground mounted solar array connected behind an existing meter. The least economical option is an offsite solar array that is net metered to the Town's accounts through the utility. Steve stated that the Highway/Fire building roof is the single best place in town due to its size, the lack of any shading, and its orientation. Steve will determine for the next Energy committee meeting how much solar can fit on the roof and how much it will produce and compare that to the Town's total usage. Steve mentioned that after that, the next step is to modify the Enfield Request for Proposal and present the findings and proposal to the Select Board will need to approve releasing any RFP. Steve noted the RFP is non-binding and does not oblige the Town to any further commitments or contract. This approach also allows independent companies to present the costs and return on investment that the Town can then evaluate.

The Committee agreed to meet again the second Thursday in August at 5:30.