

Town of Derry, NH

Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2014

Attendees: Maureen Reno, Tom Morini, Marc Flattes, Chris Cox, Jim Ricker

1. Call to Order – Maureen Reno
2. Motion to accept minutes from August 18, 2014 meeting by Chris. Second by Maureen. Marc makes motion to approve amended minutes. Chris Cox seconds. Minutes approved.
3. Chairman's Report
  - a. Opera House renovations are complete.
  - b. LED Phase 1 to go out to bid. Pilot light is near the Opera House @ Adams Memorial. Chris says these lights may be adjustable wattage.
  - c. Mike Fowler is still requesting a draft report on landfill PV feasibility. Maureen plans to check on net metering program. Maureen looked at 900 rules and found that not all competitive suppliers may have this program. There could be financial penalties for doing net-metering. Question rose about base rates in light of this possible inability to offer net metering. Maureen states her intent to close the loop on this and reconfirm.
  - d. Mike is still looking for the draft report regarding PV on landfill. Committee needs to scrub the draft and submit final version by October 1. Idea of meeting on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> raised for approving the draft. There are still multiple concerns about line items in the draft. Discussion among all members follows regarding the economics of this PV/Landfill project, including grants, bonds, concerns about the site. Marc points out that the Town likely has a commitment to a block of power from its current electricity supplier. This contract runs until Spring 2015. Some discussion about ROI and Marc points out that this is a subject that the Town will want to know up front. Obtaining the State grant would be a key determining factor regarding the feasibility of this project, which cannot be guaranteed. This is followed by a 10 minute discussion about the spreadsheet that Maureen crafted that depicts all of the costs and savings inputs.
  - e. The Derry town engineer reached out to NH environmental regulators (Department of Environmental Services) to learn that testing the integrity of the cap will not be as expensive as previously thought. The cap is also in considerably better condition than previously thought, and the committee feels this has removed a major hurdle to the viability of this PV project.
  - f. Jim Ricker reminds the committee that our role is not to make a recommendation to the Town for proceeding with this project, but to gather and present the facts for the Town's consideration. Jim also reminds the rest of the committee that his direct experience has demonstrated that most NH based projects of this kind have not proven economical. Jim also proposes the idea of showing the best, worst, and mid-range

scenarios in our report to the Town. Maureen requests all members make a final review of the draft and tilt the write up toward a more neutral stance regarding recommendation.

4. New Business

- a. November 1<sup>st</sup> is the date of "Energy Savings for the Home" seminar. Maureen has reached out to the Bottom Up group for help with this seminar. The suggestion was made to have the seminar on a week night. More to follow in next meeting on this.
- b. Fall clean-up is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM at Abbot Court parking lot.
- c. Derry Fest is this Saturday. 10:00-5:00. Tom Morini will assist in set-up. Chris has table, and light bulb demo set up. Maureen has tent, banner. Member should arrive at 7:30.
- d. Marc makes motion to adjourn, second by Chris.