

Camden Energy and Sustainability Committee

MINUTES

March 28, 2016

5:30pm, Washington St. Conference Room

Next Meeting: April 25, 2016, 5:30-6:30, Washington St. Conference Room, to be chaired by Pete Kalajian.

<u>Present:</u> Anita Brosius-Scott (Chair) Pete Kalajian Marina Schaufler Ken Gross Dana Strout Marc Ratner Brian Robinson Jim Heard – Select Board Liaison	<u>Absent:</u> Tom Edge Pat Finnigan – Town Manager Peter Galloway Sarah Holland	<u>Guests:</u> Robert Davis
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Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

1. Select Secretary – Dana Strout & Anita Brosius-Scott
2. Introductions, Guests – Robert Davis – member of public; architect, interested in topics
3. Public Comments – Question about hydropower. Pete Kalajian discussed Seabright Dam. Said that the hydro generator does not always run, because there needs to be sufficient flow at the dam. He says that the hydro facility's power output pays for running dam expenses; not much more revenue. The windings on the second generator are "blown." FIRC regulations require rather expensive 5-year certification that the dam would not have to have if we didn't have a hydropower facility associated with it. Therefore solar is much more cost-effective than hydro power.
4. Non-Agenda Items
 - a. Revision Energy site visit: Revision Energy's Hans Albee will come to Camden to tour four potential sites for a municipal array to determine suitability, on Tuesday March 29th; meet at Public Works garage at 9am.
5. Minutes of February 29, 2016 – already corrected, accepted and posted in the [GoogleDoc](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ODbzD1nBjnvCZBLFqA9PidAR0WvTFypSrczq_rnG-w8/edit?usp=sharing) at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ODbzD1nBjnvCZBLFqA9PidAR0WvTFypSrczq_rnG-w8/edit?usp=sharing. No questions; no problems with using the GoogleDoc.
6. Update on asking guests to our committee representing Rockland & Island Institute Energy Comm's - Larry Pritchett of Rockland Energy Comm and Rockland Council, and Brooks Winner of Island Institute are interested in coming to one of our meetings but this week does not work for either of them.
7. Discussion about Work Groups and WG Communications
 - a. Dana Strout joins Demand work group
 - b. Work group written reports – Request that each work group create written reports on findings; decision that Work Groups should each create a separate continuous GoogleDoc documenting their work (rather than append reports to Energy Committee Minutes GoogleDoc)
 - c. Pete Kalajian will set up wiki link to Energy Work Group and Minutes docs.

8. WORK GROUP DISCUSSIONS

a. Energy Demand Work Group

- 1) Marc (via email) – has a list of town buildings.
- 2) Ragged Mountain Lodge –
 - i. Brian has up-to-date info on plans for Ragged Mt. Lodge, from architect. Exceeds 2015 energy code. Relatively efficient building. Not hyper-insulated. Too expensive to reach “cliff” w insulation whereby heating machinery can be reduced.
 - ii. James Heard – question about whether town should accept the \$2.5mil facility.
 - iii. Solar pv on building? Cost would outweigh the benefit of putting solar there. Brian – planning, architecture already done. Marc – they decided it was less expensive and more efficient to have the building they have come up with than to put solar on.
 - iv. Jim H – who is responsible for addressing energy issues at Snow Bowl? Town needs to understand that it is a bigger financial burden. Not sure adding a new lodge is going to be sustainable. SB asks what LOS citizens want (Level Of Service). (E.g. oversalting – wait ‘til it stops snowing, don’t rush out to Hannafords.) SnowBowl lost around \$250K last year. Last year and this year lost Christmas, MLK vaca; this year lost 1 day toboggan Nationals.
- 3) Report on proposal for LED street lights “experiment” on Atlantic Avenue: Jim – Richard Bernhardt presented to SB re Downtown lights – 5 to be replaced by LED lights as a first trial to see how we like them. Marc – will the street lights being tested have individual meters? Jim H doesn’t know.

b. Energy Supply Workgroup report

- 1) Update on Solar Legislation, ME Legislature’s Energy Committee Hearing - Regarding encouraging other towns to send their own version of a resolution to Augusta, in support of the solar legislation presently under consideration in the ME legislature: Marina -Kathleen Miel in Rockport, overcommitted; Marc will talk to Owen Casas or Geoff Parker. Brian will send a copy of resolution to Jim and Cindy Dunham. Brian will reach out to Sierra Club that has citizen groups.
- 2) Update on Municipal Solar for Camden – Pete Kalajian et al. heading up looking at ground-mounted site options for a municipal solar array.
 - i. Pete set up site tours by Revision Energy. Meeting with Hans Albee (from Revision Energy) at 9am March 29: meet at Public Works, with Rick Siebel; will view land behind salt shed and around along the southern edge of the PW area. Second location: Wastewater Treatment plant, then to Mountain View Cemetery, to look at the bank facing Washington Street, then to Town-owned “Sagamore Farm” land off of Route 1 north of town.
 - ii. Communicate with Revision via Pete
- 3) Solarize Midcoast –[Sun Dog Solar Co.](#) (of Searsport) and the Solarize Midcoast program (of regional bulk purchases of solar electric systems) would be represented at our public presentation at the library on May 31 (see below).

c. Communication, Education & Strategy

- 1) Energy Education Forum planning – Ken Gross et al.: Evening of May 31 reserved at Camden Public Library. PR to be done by Library. Broad presentation of options for

energy generation, savings, efficiency and sustainability to be presented to the community. Invitees:

- a. SunDog Solar (Chuck Piper) – [Solarize Midcoast](#)
- b. Evergreen Home Performance - Kathleen Miel – home energy efficiency, PACE financing and other financing options, incentives and opportunities.
- c. Revision Energy – community solar, cooperative solar farms.

- 2) Other education and communication topics (Brian): Social media – Energy Committee members could (please) LIKE Efficiency Maine Facebook page and share their posts. Robert Davis – anything with schools? Brian – Green Sneakers, Interfaith Power and Light. Funding for those programs went away. Kids were getting energy education as part of 9th grade. Windplanners trying to make the HS net 0 on an electricity basis.

9. Meeting Length - Proposal to extend meetings to 1 ½ hours to cover material – most recent meetings have gone over an hour. Decision to extend meeting lengths to longer than an hour if need be to cover material. Chair should endeavor to keep discussion tight and on-topics. (Marc – longer is better; Dana – longer OK; James – keep it short and crisp; Brian – another ½ hour OK, take the time we need; Ken – more efficient to extend as needed.)

10. Non-Agenda Items -

- a. Efficiency Maine (EM) Incentives update from Brian – incentive level increased: \$500 air sealing incentive still in place. Insulation of attic, walls, basement increased from \$500 to \$700, so can max out at \$2600 for a structure’s building shell improvements. Google Efficiency Maine under residential rebates. EM has increased incentives for LIHEAP (Low Income Heating Assistance Program). Now they are going to make it easier. If house and land is worth less than \$80K, you are considered low-income. Incentives for low income households are double the regular incentive. Easier way to qualify as well. These increased incentives have been done in response to lower energy costs, since the prior incentives don’t have the payback they used to. Overall funding for Efficiency Maine looks like it will be increased for residential program, from \$12M up. Comes from REGGIE funds (pollution credits) plus Systems Benefit Charge.
- b. James H – Reported on large budget demands coming up for Camden: DEP requested that town replace sewer pipes, will cost \$20-40million, with help from Feds. Rebuild or new Middle school: \$28M. Rebuild VoTec: \$25M

11. Next Meeting April 25th, 5:30pm chaired by Pete K. May have some info from Revision Energy re sites for municipal solar (ergo presentation of results of that evaluation); may want to put off hearing from Rockland and Island Institute. Wait ‘til after meeting on site Tuesday 29th March.

Adjourn appx. 7pm