

Camden Energy Committee – Meeting April 25, 2016

MINUTES

April 25, 2016

5:00 pm, Watershed School

Chair: Anita Brosius-Scott (Not present)

Next Meeting: May 23, 2016, 5:30-6:30, Washington St. Conference Room.

Present: Pete Kalajian Marc Ratner Marina Schauffler Ken Gross Brian Robinson Sarah Holland	Absent: Anita Brosius-Scott (Chair) Dana Strout Peter Galloway Jim Heard – Select Board Liaison Pat Finnigan – Town Manager	Guests: None
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Meeting called to order at 5:10 pm; Moderated by Pete Kalajian
Select Secretary – Sarah Holland

1. Public Comments – None; no members of public
2. 5:35 pm Latest **updates on the Solar Bill**, L.D. 1649 Pete Kalajian

This bill goes before the Legislature this Friday April 29. This bill was passed in the House and the Senate, but was vetoed by the Governor. It is returning to the Legislature to over-ride the veto. The vote is ten votes short of passing and is still projected to be “too close to call”. (Note: At a later date the veto was sustained, so this Solar Bill did not pass.)

3. There was discussion about the **Public Presentation at the Library**, tentatively scheduled for May 31. It might not be worth having if the Solar Bill, L.D. 1649 does not pass because there will not be the incentives to invest in PV arrays. Ken Gross says Press releases need to go out ASAP. Will know by Friday.

ACTION: Marina Schauffler will be in touch with Ken about the L.D. 1649 Bill status after Friday and either proceed with the presentation as scheduled or postpone/cancel it.

5:15 pm Update on proposed **municipal solar installations at Sagamore Farm and Public Works Dept properties**. (See [Pete’s report](#), which will be continuously updated.) In brief, Pete explored the town properties at Sagamore Farm and the Public Works Dept with Bill Behrens of Revision Energy. Both sites hold promise for a hosting a sizable array of ground mounted PV panels.

The Sagamore Farm site could accommodate a much larger array with 3 phase power, but may take longer to get approvals for and the incentives may expire before that effort could be complete. The town would need to get Parker Laite to grant a right-of-way to access the property for the installation and to accommodate the power lines.

The Public Works property could accommodate a smaller single phase array and may be easier to get approvals for in the immediate future. There are some challenges in planning such an array at the Public Works Dept. because they are in the process of planning the demolition and replacement of the “Barn”. The Town has employed civil engineers Gartley and Dorskey to create a site plan and design for that replacement building. It is not known what the status of those plans are, who commissioned the study, what the time line is, and whether there is opportunity to have some input on those plans. It would be ideal to work with G&D to site a ground mounted solar array and design the building with a metal roof facing south, strong enough to accommodate additional PV panels. Based on his discussions with Bill Behrens, Pete recommended that the committee focus efforts on the Public Works Dept property first and hold the other property in reserve until the incentives make it feasible to do a large 3 -phase array.

Action: Brian Robinson will contact Will at Gartley and Dorskey to determine what the status of the Public Works project is and what the time frame is.

Action: Marina will contact Pat and or the new CEO to determine who initiated this work, if there is a building committee reviewing this design, if there is a plan for public comments or approvals and how the Energy Committee can get involved.

Action: Pete Kalajian will contact Jim Heard and Pat Finnigan about initiating ROW discussions with Parker Laite.

4. 5:45 pm Updates from Demand Subcommittee

Opera House – Brian Robinson. Brian reviewed the Opera House. Previous work had not included a blower door test (pressure diagnostics) because there was asbestos present. The Town has not removed all asbestos from the Opera House so it would still not be possible to conduct those tests. A blower door test would determine where the air leakage is and remedies could be suggested. Also window thermal insert panels could be installed to cut the heat loss through the

single pane glass.

ACTION: Marc Ratner to contact Dave Morrison, Technical Manager of the Opera House to determine if asbestos removal work is in the budget.

Snow Bowl A-frame – Brian Robinson. Brian and George Haselton of Rockport Mechanical have been brainstorming on what to do with this building for a long time. Brian conducted an energy audit on the A-frame. (He will submit a report) The walls have no insulation – just 1” pine boards. He recommends insulating with rigid insulation from the inside, adding thermal insert panels to the windows, and replacing the old heating system with one that is appropriately sized. Sarah suggested that a new heating system could be sized to heat both the A-frame and the proposed new Lodge. They are located close enough to each other that this might be practical and avoid cost of two boilers.

Snow Bowl Lodge – Sarah Holland. We have received the plans as they stand from the architects Stephen Blatt AIA. Sarah will review them and share her thoughts with the subcommittee and submit a report at the next meeting. Even though the design process may be too far along to accommodate all of the suggestions, it was felt the Energy Committee should comment on the proposed design in the hopes that some concerns could be addressed before construction documents are complete and construction begins. What is the time frame for the Snow Bowl Lodge?

Action: Contact Peter Gross of the Snow Bowl Building Committee or the Town Office to determine time frame of Design and Construction.

Other Issues:

Building Codes. The Town currently uses the state mandated MEUBC Maine Uniform Building Code which is based on the 2009 IBC (International Building Code) and 2009 IECC (International Energy Conservation Code) A newer version of IBC and IECC was released in 2015. This new version has not been adopted by the State of Maine. Any town can adopt energy standards that are more stringent than the state requirements. It was suggested that the Energy Committee should recommend that the town adopt IECC 2015 as the standard for construction. It was suggested that this recommendation be bundled with other reports and recommendations to be presented to the Select Board as our first progress report.

Future Buildings. The town has several projects in various stages of planning. These include the Snow Bowl Lodge, the Public Works Dept, the Middle School. It is important for us to get ahead of these projects, while our input can still be incorporated.

Report to Select Board. By June, we could have recommendations for the following:

Municipal solar installations at Sagamore Farm and Public Works properties

The Opera House - energy conservations improvements

The Snow Bowl A-Frame - energy conservations improvements

The Proposed Snow Bowl Lodge - Overview of design and recommendation for improved energy performance.

Building Code – Upgrade requirements by adopting IECC 2015.

6:00 pm Adjourn