

BOLTON ENERGY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
7:00 PM, Tuesday, June 7, 2016
Notch Municipal Center

Minutes

Members Present: Chairman John Muro, Vice-Chairman William Herbert, Rodney Fournier, and Douglas Fisher

Members Excused: John Stewart

Others Present: Chamae Mejias from Solarize CT and Recording Secretary Linda McDonald

1. Call to Order: Chairman J. Muro called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes: R. Fournier MOVED to approve the special meeting minutes of January 29, 2016 as presented. W. Herbert SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 3:0:1 with D. Fisher abstaining.
3. Introduction of New Members: No new members in attendance. J. Muro said the committee has two vacancies.
4. Home Energy Solutions (HES) Vendor Selection: J. Muro said J. Stewart has researched HES vendors for residential customers. The preference of the committee is to work with firms closer to Bolton. J. Muro suggested four companies close to Bolton: 1) Nutmeg Mechanical in Manchester (For disclosure, J. Muro said he knows the principals of Nutmeg Mechanical but has no business ties with them), 2) Energy ESP in Manchester, 3) Insulation Solutions of CT in East Hartford and 4) A+ Installation in East Hartford.

C. Mejias said the utility companies provide a scorecard that may help the committee select a vendor. She recommended looking at the health & safety compliance and average energy savings per home for each company. J. Muro will reach out to Eversource to get information on the four companies.

5. Presentation on Solarize Connecticut by Chamae Mejias: C. Mejias distributed materials on the program to the members. Smart Power is a non-profit marketing broker.

She said the Solarize program began as an initiative of the CT Green Bank and described the steps in the campaign for outreach to residents. The campaign is run for eighteen weeks. In response for a member question, C. Mejias said the per watt installation cost is 3.6 dollars.

Discussion followed on pros and cons of the program, including delivery charges, useful life span of the panels and inverters and the process of banking extra electricity generated.

C. Mejias said that roof mounted units are not taxable and there is no cost to the town to participate in the program.

Eight companies participate in the Solarize program: Ross Solar Group, All Green It Solar, C-TEC Solar, Purepoint Solar, Real Good Solar, Direct Energy, Be Free, Earthlight, and ENCON.

R. Fournier MOVED that the Energy Committee work with Smart Power on a community-wide Solarize Bolton program. W. Herbert SECONDED. Smart Power will provide a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the committee which will be presented at a Board of Selectmen's meeting for authorization by the BOS for the First Selectman's signature. The deadline for program commitment is September 1, 2016. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

6. Natural Gas Pipeline Extension to Bolton: J. Muro reported on the informational presentation by the natural gas company. The pipeline is anticipated to extend down Route 85 to the municipal buildings in town. The natural gas company would need the Simonize Company to come on board for the project to succeed. Several businesses in town use propane. The committee members expressed interest in being involved in the project and help with examining energy savings and revenues to the town.
7. Andover Infusion Station: Discussion followed on the proposed compressed gas station and pipeline project in Andover which would deliver natural gas out of state. The committee would like more information on this project.
8. Future Meeting Dates: J. Muro will contact members to determine the next meeting date.
9. Adjournment: W. Herbert MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. R. Fournier SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.