

BOLTON ENERGY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
7:00 PM Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Notch Road Municipal Center, Room 10

Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Richard Dziadul, Vice-Chairman William Hebert, Brian Blass, Jim Adams, John Stewart, and Rodney Fournier

Members Absent: Andrew Macomber

Others Present: Recording Secretary Linda McDonald

1. Call to Order: Chairman R. Dziadul called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. Public Comment: No public comment.
3. Discussion of the January 3, 2018 meeting and posting requirements, remediation actions: The 1/3/18 meeting was never posted with the Town Clerk so the motion to accept the December 6, 2017 minutes voted on at that meeting must be voted on again (see agenda item 4).
4. Discussion of the January 3, 2018 special meeting minutes:

Sections 5b, 5d, and 6c of the December 6, 2017 meeting minutes were amended to read as follows:

5b. Using Photovoltaics to reduce the cost of Town electric bills:

R. Dziadul said there is the possibility of using virtual net metering but more research is needed. He explained the Town does not want to put solar on any of the historical municipal buildings, but virtual net metering could allow Solar electrical generation to be generated at the Notch Road Municipal Center and credited to other municipal buildings which have historic significance. Discussion followed. R. Dziadul described the Emergency Operations Center in Killingworth that uses high efficiency electric heat pumps, and is installing a photovoltaic system to produce electricity to reduce the electric bill which includes the draw of the heat pumps. He would like to see something similar utilized in Bolton.

5d. Special meeting to arrive at an Energy Vision for the Town of Bolton:

Consensus of the Board was to schedule a special meeting on January 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 10 of the Notch Road Municipal Building to finalize an Energy Vision for the Town of Bolton.

6c. Impact of the State budget deal on future plans of the Town of Bolton to make energy improvements on Town buildings:

R. Dziadul reported he testified before DEEP in opposition of the State plan (Comprehensive Energy Plan) to limit net metering to 20 megawatts. from the current 100-megawatt limit. Currently there is no net metering limit, there has been approximately 100 megawatts installed during the last year. He explained that 2018 will be the last year to apply for the Zero Renewable Energy Credit (ZREC). A plan from the Town would have to be filed by April 2018 in order to take advantage of the ZREC program. 2018 is expected to be the last year of the ZREC program.

J. Stewart MOVED to approve the December 6, 2017 minutes as amended. R. Dziadul SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 3:0:3 with B. Blass, R. Fournier, and J. Adams abstaining.

5. Correspondence

a. Submission to the Bolton Town Annual Report: R. Dziadul distributed copies of the fiscal year 2016-2017 Annual Report that was submitted to the Town.

6. Ongoing Business

a. Discuss meeting with Administrative Officer Joyce Stille about solar possibilities:

R. Dziadul reported that, at this meeting, J. Stille said solar is not an option anywhere except at Herrick Park. Virtual net metering is not an option for the Town.

b. Discuss February 22, 2018 meeting with Facilities and Safety Committee:

c. Discuss the existing possibilities to pay down the electric bills with solar:

d. Committee and Bolton's ability to make energy improvements on Town buildings:

Agenda items 6b, 6c, and 6d were discussed. R. Dziadul reported the Facilities and Safety Committee is a subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen. At their February 22, 2018 meeting he spoke with J. Stille, First Selectman Sandra Pierog, and Selectman Robert Morra on the topic of solar options for the Town buildings.

R. Dziadul said the Facilities and Safety Committee members asked the following:

- Could big solar options be done at the Fire Station, such as a carport or solar panels (solar trackers) that always face the sun
- what a 200-kilowatt system behind Bolton Center School Power Purchase Agreement (lease) would cost and
- using the field behind the Trooper building what the cost would be for a ground mount solar system to power Town Hall, State Trooper building, and the library across the street.

R. Dziadul explained the Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credit (ZREC) expires at the end of this year. Filing a medium ZREC application for a 200-kilowatt system requires a performance bond (approximately \$5,000.00) from the Town and would have to be filed by May 2018. Filing a small ZREC application for a 100-kilowatt system does not require a bond and can be filed as late as December 2018.

Board discussion followed on what approach to take. The steps involved to file a medium ZREC application for a 200-kilowatt system are:

- Obtain a map of the Town-owned field behind Bolton Center School;
- Determine if a 200-kilowatt system would fit in the field without encroaching on the septic system;
- Determine the costs for ground mounts and PPA's; and

- Bring the business plan to the BOS or bring a preliminary proposal to the BOS to determine the Town's willingness to put up a performance bond and interest in proceeding to file a medium ZREC application for a 200-kilowatt system.

R. Dziadul MOVED that R. Fournier, J. Adams, and he complete a medium ZREC application business proposal for the Town's consideration within the next two weeks. J. Stewart SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

e. Discussion of an Energy Vision for the Town of Bolton:

R. Dziadul spoke to the Facilities and Safety Committee about the use of solar heat pumps. Decision was made by the Town to go with installation of a gas line and the committee was not supportive of using solar heat pumps in buildings on the gas line.

f. Discussion on Education Outreach to High School students: Educate advanced placement environmental science students:

Consensus of the committee was to table discussion on this agenda item to a future meeting later this year.

g. Follow up targeted CVC presentations like the one in August 2017:

Possible future presentation topics discussed include home insulation and educate people on how to get residential energy audit. J. Stewart volunteered to research information on home energy audits for a possible CVC presentation.

7. New Business:

a. Update the energy usage benchmark with 2017 numbers and retire 2016 benchmark:

R. Dziadul said the 2016 energy usage benchmark is outdated. The first step to update the benchmark with 2017 numbers is to request the 2017 energy billing information from the Town and the Board of Education (BOE). B. Blass, R. Dziadul and J. Adams will work on updating this benchmark.

8. Adjournment: R. Fournier MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. R. Dziadul SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald

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