

BOLTON ENERGY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
7:00 PM, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018
Notch Municipal Center
Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Richard Dziadul, William Hebert, John Stewart, Jim Adams, Andrew Macomber, and Brian Blass

1. Call to Order: Chairman Richard Dziadul called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Approval of minutes:

R. Dziadul MOVED to approve the **Aug. 8, 2018 minutes**. J. Stewart SECONDED the motion.
MOTION CARRIED 4:0:2.
3. Communications:
 - a) R. Dziadul summarized recent letter noting that by the end of the year our committee had to vote on and approve the schedule of regular committee meetings for 2019. J. Stewart mentioned that he had sent everyone a link to a “Doodle” that would allow them to indicate their possible dates. He also handed out a page of the same dates, but the members present decided to use the Doodle option at a later time.
 - b) R. Dziadul updated the discussions with Capital for Change (C4C) (www.capitalforchange.org). He had discussed our projects with staff of C4C Brian Sullivan and Cal Vinal. They still were willing to make a power purchase agreement (PPA) at \$0.03/kWh for our three possible projects. Brian S. had encouraged us to consider a larger 250kW system for the high school, as opposed to the proposed 100kW system, probably because there is more profit in the larger systems. However, R. Dziadul had mentioned then three reservations about such a large system: a) the “power factor” of the high school was unknown so it was uncertain how producing so much electricity might affect the surrounding grid, b) we need to make sure there is sufficient roof space on the new addition, and c) electric utilities have had trouble in the past with solar panels on rural schools producing lots of power, but not consuming it during summer months, so the surrounding grid is stressed. It was decided that a 250 kW system was probably too large and a 100 kW system had the advantage of being in the “small” category that had less restrictive rules and deadlines. It remained a possibility that we might propose a somewhat larger system.
C4C also mentioned that the best and lowest cost method of servicing any Power Purchase Arrangement PPA would be “on bill reimbursement” on the electric bill.
 - c) C4C would require that Bolton initially pay for a professional engineer to design the solar systems, but C4C would loan Bolton the money for this payment and, if the systems were built, C4C would cancel this loan so there would be no cost to Bolton. If any of the systems were not built for some reason, then Bolton would repay the loan or part of the loan incrementally over time via an additional charge on the electric bill (“on bill reimbursement”).
 - d) Some discussion about the proposed projects: 2017 electricity use of Fire station was 50% higher than 2016, so the size of the fire station carport may need to be revisited. Center school system would avoid the septic fields, but proposed new town garage might compete for the same space and its location would need to be determined; and discussed some issues (cost, roof strength) around possibility of putting solar on new garage.
 - e) It was estimated that Bolton would save about \$20,000 per year on its electric bills.

4. Ongoing Business

- a. R. Dziadul called the CT Green Bank (GB) about possibility of installing an electric car charger in Bolton at a public site. This charger might be used on Bolton government cars, as done in Stafford. We were not sure that Bolton even owned cars, but knew of vans used by the Senior Center. Still, any charger would be open to the public. The GB was developing a carbon credit system for installed chargers that would pay the installer when the charger was used. The money would come from the RGGI funds, but this policy was projected to not be ready until 2020.
These car chargers would need to be ADA American Disabilities Act compliant. The chargers that match the power types available would be "level 2" chargers. These chargers would be able to fully charge a car in 3 hours. They would cost \$3-\$16,000, but would earn money for 20-30 years under this new policy, when it is implemented.
R. Dziadul mentioned that Tesla is installing chargers that only work on its cars, but Tesla will also partially fund a second charger immediately adjacent to the Tesla charger that would be a universal charger that could charge any electric car. Jim Adams was going to look into whether Tesla might have any interest in a Bolton location.
- b. The 2017 Bolton energy consumption benchmark was done and was similar to 2016 results, except the fire station was about 50% higher for unknown reasons. There was some discussion of the town government's oil and natural gas consumption and the costs.
- c. The next step in promoting the three solar projects would be a meeting with Joyce Stille so that meetings with relevant town committees and the BOS could be arranged. J. Stewart would also attend this meeting with Joyce. He showed a draft of a PowerPoint show that might be used in these meetings. It was decided that he would email it to the members for their comments.
- d. It was decided to delay the selection of the dates for the 2019 regular meetings. This would be the sole topic of a Dec. 11 special meeting and Jay would ask Elizabeth Waters whether this could be done by email or maybe a conference call instead of having to meet in person. The Energy Committee intends to follow all local and state rules and statues so we are inquiring as how best to proceed.

5. Adjournment: R. Dziadul MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:22p.m. W. Hebert SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by John Stewart, Secretary of Bolton Energy Committee

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