

Town of Londonderry Energy Committee
DRAFT Minutes - August 2, 2017

Attending:

Committee Members: Will Reed, Bob Borella, Lawrence Gubb, Bruce Frauman

Collaborators: Paul Gordon

1. Will Reed called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.
2. Bob moved, Bruce seconded: To approve the minutes of the July 11 meeting with the addition of a 9:15 adjournment time. Passed unanimously.
3. Wills moved, Larry Seconded to add discussion the Riley Road solar development property and discussion of the WRC meeting that Will and Bruce attended. Passed unanimously
4. Discussion of July 25 Municipal Planning Discussion at the WRC Full Commission Meeting. Will said he learned that only the town plan is acceptable to be considered by the Public Utility Commission (Formerly Public Service Board) and that it is illegal of them to consider zoning when making a determination. Bruce said "Board Rules" refers to the recent determination by the Department of Public Service regarding the Bennington Regional Commission request for approval of their regional energy plan. It says that while Act 174 compliant regional and municipal energy plans do get "substation deference", the town plan is only on of several "statutory criteria the Board must apply when considering whether a proposed project should receive a Section 248 permit."
Will said Westminster's energy plan consisted primarily of mapping noting preferred and unsuitable sites with each land owner consulted. The town has been inundated with solar projects and lost really good farm land.
5. Will said the Riley Road project is two ground mounted solar arrays on a former tennis court behind a house and one roof-top mounted array. Bob said there is nothing we should do about a private home owners development. Larry warned against creating a precedent. Will moved and the committee approved a motion stating that "the Committee upon review of the riley Road project feels that this project meets the criteria for a small scaled individually owned solar project."
Bob cited the four criteria for the Net Metering rules from January 1, 2017.
Paul Gordon (just arriving) said the WRC is very reluctant to endorse a project like Big Rock. He asked "if a neighbor objects, what can town say?" He does not know the answer.
Bob said we are an advisor committee to the Select Board and Planning Commission. Will said we can evaluate larger projects and determine if we think if it is a good idea or not. Larry said we could apply the Queechee standard and try to determine if glare and reflection will be a problem. Will noted that Integrated Solar met all the existing criteria before the project at the end of Thompsonburg Road was built.

6. Energy Plan. After some discussion on Section 5, goal 4, Policy 5 regarding bylaws, the committee decided to leave it in for now. Emily and others can recommended removing it. Bob asked about the July 31 deadline regarding the WRC timetable for completion. Will and Bruce said we did not miss out on anything. We can submit our plan whenever it is ready.

The timetable for the new Town Plan was discussed. The PC has not yet submitted it to the Select Board for approval. It is waiting for edits based on the hearing and maps from the WRC. Any amendments, such as the Enhanced Energy Plan get another review and hearing. Will will ask Emily if it has to go back to the Planning Commission before going to the Select Board. Bob asked, since the Enhanced Energy Plan came largely from the state's goals of 90% renewable by 2050, what happens if the Select Board rejects it. Will will ask Emily.

We will print clean, final hard copies before final approval for the EC.

7. Yrsha land and Norris project. Bob said he is not talking with Norris before he gets clarification from the WRC (*on what, exactly?*). Will did reach out to Jeff Yrsha, who said no one is allowed on his land with out a certificate of insurance and a mine safety certification. He is upset about a jurisdictional opinion from the state that was a result of the town inquiries into the history of the land when it was considering purchasing it from the Yrshas. Will did ask for permission to walk on the land and was refused.

Paul said that Norris did say that if he did not get a letter of support from the town and from the WRC by the end of June, the project was "dead in the water."

8. Bruce asked what rules the Energy Committee operates under. We have no bylaws specific to this committee. Paul said there are state rules, Select Board approval, and Robert's Rules. The committee is an advisory board. Will will ask Emily if there is any rules of governance we should be aware of.

9. The next meeting is set for Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 6:00 pm.

10 The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Submitted by Bruce Frauman, Clerk
August 4, 2017