

Town of Londonderry Energy Committee
DRAFT Minutes - April 18, 2018

Attending:

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

1. Will Reed called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm.
2. Approval of minutes:
Bruce moved, Bob seconded to approve minutes of March 14, 2018 as written. Larry abstained.
3. Addition to Agenda;
Bruce moved, Larry seconded to add Zoning By-laws to agenda as item 6. Passed unanimously.
4. EC Logo Update.
Will forwarded an email sent from the Flood Brook Office to the Flood Brook community April 18 announcing the Logo Contest, open to all Flood Brook students, submissions due May 11. A family 4-pack to the Bromley Fun Zone will be offered as a prize to the winner. The EC mission statement was offered as "consideration" for design proposals.
Will will purchase the 4-pack from Bromley using the money granted the EC by the town, but will say what it is for to see if a discount is offered.
5. Norris Project.
Bruce reported on the meeting between Mike Norris and the DRB on April 11. Norris Brothers have been in business for 4 years specializing in solar arrays that are well hidden. This will be a 500 kW AC system and 720kW DC. They will use 400 i-beams pounded into the ground, minimizing site disruption and making it easy to dismantle. The panels will be rack mounted. The array will be out of the river corridor and no trees will be cut. This will not be a community solar project. We don't know why the DRB permit is needed. Norris will lease the land from the Yrsha's for 25 years. The panels will be built in the US, though his primary supplier, Solar World has filed for chapter 11. Banks will fund 80%. The DRB went through their standards, which the project met and will hold a public hearing on April 30. Norris said the project has to be built this fall and the PUC can take 3 months to make a decision. Bruce said that when the project is underway, perhaps we could invite Mike Norris to an EC meeting and pick his brain.
Donna noted how much more efficient solar cells are becoming.
Bruce said he started reading the book *Power From the People* which suggests ways individuals and towns can generate their own electricity. One idea is to wire houses with DC to be able to directly use power from solar cells without converting DC to AC and back to DC for many devices such as laptops and flat screen TV's.

6. Zoning By-laws.

Bruce distributed Section 500 of the town's By-Laws because 1. These are the standards Norris had to meet, and 2. These By-laws will be rewritten by the Planning Commission over the next year and a half and the EC may participate. This is a preview of that work for those of us not familiar with the by-laws. Bob said we need to know what the PUC requires and how substantial deference will apply. Would anyone know at the WRC?

Donna looked up the rules. There is no local review for projects under 15 kW. Projects 15-50 kW apply to the PUC along with local commissions. Net metering is required for ground based projects up to 15 kW (?) and roof mounted projects up to 500 kW. Ground mounts between 15 kW and 50 kW require PUC approval (Plus local consideration???) . Projects over 50 kW go the the ANR first.

7. EEP Progress.

The Planning Commission did vote to start the approval process: a public hearing, waiting period and approval unless there are substantive changes which would require another meeting. Then it goes on the the Select Board for a hearing and vote of approval. The Plan was approved as submitted pending the hearing.

Larry said Emily Davis said we are on track to be the first town in the WRC region to pass the enhanced energy plan.

Bruce distributed the Hill Country Observer with an article about a developer trying to get a solar site approved in Bennington.

Will sent the latest version of the EEP to Marion Major, staff member of the WRC.

8. Next meeting set for May 16 at 6:15 pm.

9. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Submitted by Bruce Frauman, Clerk
April 21, 2018