

Barre City Energy Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2017 5:30pm

Committee Members in person: Elaine Wang, Philip Cecchini  
Committee Members joining by phone: Conor Teal  
Community Members: Richard Hiscock  
City Staff: Nick Landry; Steve Mackenzie; Janet Shatney

1. Call to order - 5:30pm  
Phil Cecchini will take minutes
2. Changes to agenda? None
3. Approve minutes of last meeting
  - o Phil Moved to approve minutes of last meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elaine.
  - o Passed – Conor abstained as he had not reviewed minutes
4. Update on City Hall project - audit proposal
  - o Commons energy will complete the energy audit and structural audit at the same time.
  - o Payment for the audit can be rolled into the project financing, so no cash up front. If the project does not move forward the fees for initial work will need to be paid. \$6,000 for audit plus \$10,000-\$15,000 for structural evaluation.

MOTION: Phil Cecchini moved to recommend to the City Council to proceed with the Commons Energy L3C proposal (attached). 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elaine Wang. Passed unanimously.

5. Community Solar - visit from Aegis Solar – Chris Lamonia
  - o The overall 15% net metering cap has been reached and there are new rules for net metering. For ground mount 150kw projects there must be 1 user that is onsite or abutting that takes more than 50% of power generated. Rooftop projects are preferred by regulation and so are exempt from this rule
  - o GMP Solar Map shows green lines where lines can handle more distribution for community solar – red lines cannot. See:  
<http://gmp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=546100cc60c34e8eb659023ea8ae03f3>
  - o Question posed: In the City of Barre: Could we put together a community solar array on rooftops?
    - The sweet spot for community solar is a 150kw system – this would require 12,000 sf. The system would generate \$46,000 in net meter credits.
    - Because of existing solar at Booth Morrison and soon Richardson Road, the City has already hit their maximum for net metering, meaning that it cannot receive any additional financial benefit from developing more solar. However, solar on the roof could be used for community solar.

Chris Lamonia will provide square footage for 50kw, 100kw arrays to help us determine how many roofs (and which ones) we would need to come up with one or more viable projects.
6. Button Up commitment? – Elaine Wang
  - o Button-up will be a ‘Fall Long’ initiative this year.
  - o Barre City would need to commit to 2 events
  - o Barre Partnership mentioned 3 possibilities: 5K, holiday craft fair at the Auditorium, and craft show at the Old Labor Hall. There are also our own workshops or the farmer’s market.
  - o Group agreed that before we commit it would be good to find out if we can get into the two big events, especially the craft fair.  
ACTION: Nick Landry to follow up with the Barre Partnership if the Committee could table at these events and help with the dialogue with the civic committee, which only allows one nonprofit at a time (although BCEC is a city committee).
  - o EVT will help with print advertising buys but will not do mailers. Will provide LEDs.

- The approach is similar to what Conor and Elaine developed for the Heritage Festival – a give away (LED) if we receive a pledge for one of several energy savings measures and a request to enter their efforts into energy dashboard, except that Button Up requests the participants to enter their own actions.
7. Visit from Joel Rhodes of SunCommon
    - SunCommon will be focusing on Barre in September and October
    - They have 3,000 arrays on homes, plus 1,000 community solar
      1. 85 households in Barre City / Town
    - Came to raise awareness about Solar Tariff on solar equipment
      1. Would double cost of importuning solar panels
      2. US manufactures are struggling with solvency
      3. Peter Welch and Pat Leahy are against the tariff as they will cause more job loss among installers and loss of momentum for renewables.
      4. The tariff will add \$2,000 to \$3,000 on a \$15,000 - \$30,000 project (typical residential project) – more on a commercial project
    - SunCommon will be doing workshop in fall for solar at the library
  8. Report out and debrief on Heritage Festival
    - Constant flow of people, small pledge – ask folks to commit to doing a small action.
    - Some additional names on mailing list
    - Participation in electric car show was a good showing
    -
  9. Round the Table: Richard noted that the BCEC info cards on the City Hall table were out of date.  
ACTION: Elaine Wang to drop off updated BCEC Info cards with updated meeting date to City Hall
  10. Adjourned 7:00pm

Item for next meeting: Winter workshop series