

Newton Citizen's Commission on Energy

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday April 25, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Newton Free Library Conference Room A

Present: Eric Olson (Chair), Halina Brown, Michael Gevelber, Ira Krepchin, Jim Purdy; Ed Craddock

Chairman Eric Olson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The minutes of the March 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved with revisions.

1. Update on Community Choice Aggregation: recent meetings; April 25 conversation with Ann Berwick

There have been discussions about the contract for an aggregation consultant, and some concerns have been raised about the rate of compensation that the consultants receive. In other recent contracts with Good Energy, the consultant teaming with Mass Energy in Melrose, Dedham, and Brookline, the incentive for the aggregation consultant is 0.001 per kWh bought. This amounts to a very large fee for services provided. For Newton the total fee would be about \$300K per year. Eric suggested that instead of a fee on the total volume of kW hours, the fee could be structured to incentivize a high percentage of Class 1 RECs.

The City received 3 responses to its RFP. Ann Berwick, Andy Savitz, and other city staff are on the selection committee - a time line is being prepared for evaluating proposals. They anticipate some hard decisions on negotiation to bring down the price.

There was discussion of whether NCCE could get a representative on the selection committee. Halina was asked to consider filling this role.

Brant agreed to be a continuing resource on technical input about the energy markets.

We will need to educate the community in order to persuade the city council to adopt a plan with significant green energy component. Should Newton do a household survey similar to Brookline's?

There was discussion of whether to poll the candidates for mayor and City Council in the fall election. Potential questions for candidates:

- How much are you willing to pay for 100% green energy?
- How would you promote a more sustainable energy system for the city's residential and commercial property owners. Would you support Newton's opting into PACE (MassDevelopment's Property Assessed Clean Energy program?)
- Are you a strong supporter of moving toward a 100% renewable energy system?

3. Update on Memorial Spaulding School initiatives

It appears that teachers feel swamped with work and don't feel able to develop and incorporate a new curriculum on energy. However, Ed says that this is coming in the new curriculum for grades 6-9.

4. Update on Solar on Newton properties.

Not discussed.

5. Betsy Harper, the Sustainability Manager at MA Department of Housing Community Development, is managing a new program to promote ground source heat pumps for renewable energy. [betsy.a.harper at state.us.ma]

Brief discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Jim Purdy.