

The November meeting of the Energy and Technology Committee was held at 4:30PM on November 13, 2019, at the Town Office. Attending were Gary Vincent, John Monaghan, Jim Babarski, Howard Marshall, and briefly, David Chipman.

The minutes of the last meeting, 10/09, were approved.

Cell tower update: Board approved the release of the RFP, responses due by 11/26. No questions or responses yet.

Question from Gary: Do we want a briefing on the Cumberland County Broadband Study. Consensus is that the report is self-explanatory, so no need to request a briefing. This was followed by a discussion of the possibility of long range wi-fi and/or 5G access points instead of the CCBS' proposal of hardwired connections to everyone who wants it.

HVAC workshop was positive. Several alternatives, ranging from quick fixes to a comprehensive overhaul. The comprehensive system would have small indoor units like a minisplit connected to a few large outdoor units with variable refrigerant flow. This would also use the existing ductwork to supply fresh air, and the existing boiler for additional heating capacity (though the existing boiler is probably bigger than desirable). Gary will send Kristi a note asking to keep John posted. John recommends asking SMRT to produce a performance spec, and that the town put out a request for qualifications before an RFP for the comprehensive overhaul.

Cable franchise renewal advisory work group. Kristi asked Gary to participate. An open question is whether the new in-kind contributions toward the franchise fee can be for uses other than the TV station. Discussions of the mechanics of the franchise fee, in-kind contributions, and grants from Comcast followed. Gary will keep the committee posted.

Solar array project. Howard updated the Select Board on our progress; they seemed happy with how we are going. Discussion of the short-term and long-term costs of the various proposals. There are a couple of new considerations that have come to light:

- (1) There is an alternative to the "power producer" proposal in which the town is simply a landlord for a private entity that leases town land to build a private solar array and sell the power [to CMP]. This would simply generate revenue to the town on a long-term basis. Gary suggested that this replace the "town as power producer" proposal as we have largely dismissed that proposal as too big for the town.
- (2) Howard suggested that the possibility of a solar array on the roof of the recycling center creates an opportunity to address the shortcomings of the present recycling center, in particular the high demand charges and the lack of 3-phase power; and, perhaps, this could provide power to the town office and EMT building during power outages. This possibility may mean we should reconsider the size of the proposed array at Mitchell Field as the recycling center roof would provide a significant minority of the energy

needed by the town. (Howard regrets that he has now violated his own mantra to keep it simple...)

Howard will make some preliminary inquiries of CEI and maybe a solar project designer about the off-grid/battery scheme for the recycling center.

Discussion of a possible 5MW commercial array at Mitchell Field. Would require much more land (~20 acres) than currently OK'ed by MFC, but it has returned to an option worth considering.

Discussion about possibilities for PPA financing. Should we ask Revision to redo their 2016 proposal? John thinks CEI would not finance a vanilla PPA.

John and Howard to make more progress on the evaluation of the various options; ask Matt for input on Green Power and Commercial Power Producer.

John suggested that CEI might be more interested in financing the comprehensive (solar, batteries, reduce demand, off-grid, 3-phase) solution as a novel use of green power.

John will contact Vaughan Woodruff for suggestions for designers and installers.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30PM.