

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 4, 2019
6:30 – 8:00 PM, Rye Public Library

Attending: Danna Truslow, Howard Kalet, Michael Joyce, Carl Nicolino, Tom Pfau

The May meeting minutes were approved

Howard and Danna reported on the presentation of the Municipal Solar Power Report to the Board of Selectmen. The report was well received with the BOS asking many questions. The Board authorized the REC to continue exploring solar power and to draft an RFP for BOS review before sending to solar vendors. They encouraged the REC to solicit input for the RFP from the School and Water Boards.

There was discussion about what to ask vendors to propose; whether to ask them to propose a centralized array for the entire town or a hybrid of centralized and localized on-site panels. The consensus was to ask vendors to propose the configuration they think would be best.

Howard offered to contact Dennis McCarthy to discuss use of the land behind the Public Safety Building for an array. He also offered to contact Carl Edin of Energy Management Consultants to conduct energy audits of the Public Safety Building compressed air systems and the Water District pumps.

The site walk of Water District parcels with Superintendent Arik Jones was discussed. Arik showed Danna, Howard and Tom the vacant land behind the Garland Rd pump station where construction of a water treatment plant has been proposed. He also showed them the adjacent land where the old town landfill is capped. The RWD has suggested these sites might be appropriate locations for a municipal solar array. Danna offered to research the landfill closing documents to confirm whether the landfill might be a suitable site.

Tom reported on the presentation of the Lighting Audit project to the BOS. The report was well received with many questions asked about financing. The BOS voted to proceed with the lighting upgrade project and to accept the Eversource Smart Start financing.

Tom reviewed the presentation of the lighting audit and municipal solar reports to the Rye School Board meeting on Monday, June 10. Carl Edin will also attend to answer any questions the School Board may have.

At our April Meeting Jaci Grote suggested holding an energy roundtable. She asked us to propose some possible topics which we discussed. Some suggestions were: energy

building codes, net zero homes, workforce housing, offshore wind, wave/tidal energy. It was proposed that the roundtable be held with Rye boards and committees that may have an influence on improving residential energy efficiency and the Town achieving the goals of the Master Plan Energy Chapter. These might include the Planning & Zoning Board, Conservation Committee, Budget and the Building Inspection department. Tom offered to draft an email to Jaci Grote with our suggestions.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 6 at 6:30. There will be no meeting in July.