Minutes of Meeting  
Sustainable Hanover Energy Subcommittee  
Tues, July 9, 2019, 1 to 2:30 pm

Present: Judi Colla, Laura Hutchinson, Peter Kulbacki, Rob Houseman, Yolanda Baumgartner, Heidi Trimarco, Marjorie Rolgalski, Josh Hotvet, Julia Griffin, April Salas, Robin Kaiser, Barb Calloway, Stowe Beam (via phone), Rob Taylor. Guests: Andrew Hatch (Resilient Buildings), Fletcher Passow (Metrics)

Introductions

Communications Document - Judi urged everyone to continue updating the communications document, using the edit pen to show changes.

Retreat - The Sustainable Hanover Committee and Energy Subcommittee retreat will be held on Friday, July 26, from 10 am to 2 pm at Lynn Swett-Miller’s home on Rip Road. Kevin Keller from Tuck will lead a discussion on messaging and branding.

Legislative update (Josh)

• **Net metering.** The NH House passed a bill with a veto-proof majority raising the size of net metering from 1 to 5MW. The Governor then vetoed this bill. The House will reconsider it on veto override day sometime in September (date not set). We are cautiously optimistic. If it passes, it will attract solar developers to NH. Rumors are that the Governor is putting a lot of pressure on the republican caucus not to override his veto.

• **Large scale solar**, i.e., greater than 20 MW, is a different game. It is not net metered and sold on the wholesale market into the ISO. The SEC reviews projects greater than 30 MW, taking aesthetics into consideration. Cypress Creek has two 50 MW solar arrays under development in the North Country. NextEra has two utility scale solar projects in the southern part of the State, one in Hinsdale and one in Fitzwilliams. According to Josh, these projects can be relevant to our PPA efforts once approved by the SEC. We can contract with an energy supplier anywhere; it is perhaps preferable to do so within the NE-ISO.

• **Wind vs. solar.** Wind has historically been cheaper than solar but is now almost at parity. Wind has many siting challenges, aesthetics being one. We are not likely to see more onshore wind in VT or NH but do expect to see more offshore wind. Solar plus storage and wind plus storage is the future.

• **Community Solar Project on Town Land.** Julia signed a letter of intent with Revision to install about 750KW solar array on Town property. An investor connected with Dartmouth who needs to offset some capital gains by the end of 2019 is backing this project. If the legislature overrides the governor’s veto of the net metering bill, we could expand this installation to 3 MW (capacity of site).

Efficiency - Resilient Buildings (Andrew)

• All good news. Projects continue to accumulate. Eleven projects in the Upper Valley have been submitted to Franklin Energy who is increasing the size of its team in this area (Liberty outsources everything to do with energy efficiency to parties that specialize, such as Resilient Buildings Group and Franklin Energy.) Once these projects are finalized, Andrew hopes to share annual and lifetime MW savings. Andrew discussed of the pros and cons of the processes under which he works and is encouraged by improvements he sees coming. He’s trying to develop a case study illustrating how to reach small businesses.

• Andrew mentioned a couple of specific projects. He is working on a lighting layout for the RW Black parking lot and anticipates big energy savings. He is also meeting with process engineers for the Water Department, specifically wastewater and filtration. They have developed a plan for heating
the raw water pump building. After modeling the energy of the building, they proposed to insulate the walls and ceiling, install solar on the roof, possibly getting to a net zero or perhaps even a positive generator of energy. Because the old resistance heat pump will be used so little, there is no need to replace it. Payback time is to be determined.

**Solarize Hanover 2.0 (Yolanda)** - We kicked off the Solarize Hanover 2.0 campaign on June 20th. As of today, 39 people have registered for site visits, most for multiple visits, resulting in about 60 total. There was a bump at the start, but now registrations are only trickling in. Our goal is to double the number of solar homes in Hanover from 125 to 250 by the end of 2021. The four installers are scheduling open houses. Yard signs are up. Marjorie will submit a LTE to the Valley News. There will be a mailing.

**New Hampshire Green Power (April)** - We have been working with 3Degrees on a green power purchasing program for Hanover residents that could be expanded to other Liberty customers. We had identified Arcadia as a possible partner, but, unfortunately, ran into problems with how the Liberty and Arcadia websites interacted. We had a conversation with Liberty about reigniting their green power purchasing plan, as an alternative, but that went poorly. Consequently, we are considering other options, one being to buy either retail or wholesale RECS. We are looking at many options, including low impact hydro in New England.

**Community Solar (Private Land) (Heidi)** - We are currently looking for potential sites. Will be meeting next Wed with residents of Brook Hollow who reached out to us. This suggests other possibilities such as Willow Springs, Velvet Rocks, etc.

**Power and Purchase Agreements (PPA’s) (Julia, April)** - Laura and April met with Hypertherm to discuss the possibility of joining with other large users in a PPA.

**Progress of Summer Intern (Laura)** - Laura has created a map of 3 Phase power and revisited the number of PV installations in Hanover. Currently, there are 150 systems, of which 133 are residential and 17, either commercial, institutional, municipal or industrial. Total installed capacity is over 1.6 MW. Laura is also working on a summary of how much electricity we are generating and consuming in town, documenting her methodology, so we can duplicate going forward.

**Other Business**
- Julia spent 5 hours with 19 communities near Philadelphia at a conference last week. She will be participating in a conference call with these same towns to tee up their sustainable efforts.
- April received an Irving Institute grant for $30,000 to develop a NH energy dashboard. The hope is to start here in Hanover, expand first to NH and then nation-wide.
- Dartmouth will be releasing an RFP for solar, possibly on Oak Hill.
- Yolanda announced that, under pressure from the utilities, the governor vetoed SB72. This bill would prohibit utilities from taking credit for REC’s that entities with solar don’t register and use them themselves to satisfy requirements under the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS’s). (People don’t tend to count and sell their REC’s because it is prohibitively expensive.) Rob Taylor is interested in writing a LTE on this topic.

Minutes by Heidi Trimarco