

## **Center Harbor Energy Committee**

Minutes of Meeting – June 19th, 2023

Attendees: Carol Sullivan, Bernie Volz, Michael Rich and Selectmen Representative Richard Drenkhan.

Carol called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

### **On-Going Business**

#### **Review and approval of April minutes**

Richard moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting. Bernie seconded. There was no May meeting due to a pause in the schedule for the Solar Array and due to the continuing Covid epidemic affecting Carol.

#### **Potential Solar Project for behind Municipal Building**

**Meeting with Solar Contractors - June 12th, 10 am:** Five Solar Contractors responded to the schedule in the RFP for our Solar array by attending the June 12 meeting. Bernie Volz, Carol Sullivan and Michael Rich of the Energy Committee also attended. The meeting started in the Cary Mead Room where some details about the project and schedule were reviewed. The group then visited the solar array site behind the Congregational Church and more specifics about the project were discussed. The contractors were able to take photos and make measurements that day, or later with a heads-up to Bernie or Robin Woodaman. The contractors were also informed that some details about how the array was to be built should be suggested by the contractors themselves., (e.g., line from the array to the building being underground or overhead, fence around the solar array, etc.)

**Grants for Solar Array:** During the April meeting, the committee discussed a US Department of Energy's Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) grant that Center Harbor might apply for to help fund the solar array. Carol worked on a Concept Paper for the grant, and contacted Lisetta Silvestri (of LRCT and PAREI) who has had grant-writing experience. Lisetta informed Carol that she and PAREI were applying for the same grant for four towns in central New Hampshire. They are calling their project the Central New Hampshire Energizer Boost Project. She suggested that Center Harbor join in this effort. Lisetta and Carol attended a Select Board meeting to discuss applying for the grant as part of a group. The Select Board approved this effort for the town. The Concept Paper has been submitted; PAREI and participating towns and groups are awaiting the approval by the DOE, after which a complete application will be submitted. In addition to this grant, we intend to apply for rebate through the Inflation Reduction Act with input from Sen. Shaheen's office. Carol will also contact Clean Energy NH and the NH DOE to inquire about other grants.

#### **NHEC's Role**

After a contractor is selected in September, Town should work with the contractor to see if an application with NHEC for Engineering work can be initiated, likely using funds from the Expendable Trust — lead times can be six months for greater than 100 Kw systems.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Other Business**

#### **PAREI Update**

Sandra Jones emailed the towns participating in the Solar Shares project to be built behind LRCT that the NH Executive Council voted in favor of the NH DOE's contract to provide \$109,000 of funding toward the cost. Center Harbor is one of the participating towns. This money will primarily fund equipment and labor for installing a 38kW

Community Solar PV array. Carol and Bernie have participated in some meetings to discuss this project with PAREI and LRCT as well as in clearing of the land for the solar array. There will be another meeting at LRCT on Wednesday June 21st. This solar generation will benefit 12 local families in need of assistance. The goal is to have the solar generation on-line by late September or sooner.

### **Clean Energy NH Update**

Melissa Elander, a Circuit Rider for Clean Energy NH in Coos County contacted Carol, offering information and support about grants for Clean Energy. Carol will stay in contact with Melissa to discuss where we are at with our Solar Project and get advice on other grants that might be available. Clean Energy also sponsored Building a Clean Energy Future - an Interactive workshop for Municipal Officials on June 15. Carol was not able to attend but will contact Melissa to see if there was a recording of the Workshop that we can view.

### **NH EEC Network Update**

The NH Network offers many educational events on environmental, energy and climate topics. Carol's contact within the Network informed us about the interactive workshop mentioned above.

Bernie moved to adjourn the meeting. Richard seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Unless the need for another Energy Committee meeting arises sooner, the next meeting will be held on Monday, August 21st, 2023.

Respectfully submitted on June 23rd, 2023, Carol Sullivan