

Lincoln Green Energy Committee Meeting Minutes November 3, 2016, 8-9:30 am, Town Offices

Attending GEC – John Snell (chair), Sue Klem, Jim Hutchinson, Ed Lang
Attending Other – Lynn Smith, Mark Deck, Jonathan Soo, Christina Rohrbacher
(Homeworks)

Rooftop Solar Setback Restrictions

Discussion about the need for restrictions on solar rooftop setback and whether or not they unnecessarily limit solar installations in Lincoln zoning bylaws.

- Setback is 12” and several residents and organizations have found that this restriction limits rooftop capacity making it more difficult to fully utilize open roof space
- Discussion of origins of the setback including possible fire safety needs
 - Lincoln Fire Department reportedly does not require it
 - May have come from using Belmont as a model for initial draft
- Setback is managed by Lincoln Planning Board
 - Process to seek exceptions is long and drawn out
 - Process to change the setback may take time
- ACTION: Jim H. and Mark D. to follow up with Jennifer at Planning Board to understand if the setback is needed, how to change it if not, and how to streamline exceptions in the interim

Other Possible Solar Restrictions

Discussion of other possible issues that might hold back solar installations in Lincoln

- Historic District limitations
- How restrictions might or might not apply to new integrated panels
- Whether or not there needs to be a different mindset in town about renewable energy and conservation
- How the town prioritizes solar given Town Meeting support of taking on climate change
- ACTION: John considering white paper on this larger set of issues

Municipal Solar

John Snell described a 40-50 page report being prepared by himself and Jennifer Haugh to be presented at the State of the Town meeting November 12

- Two prime sites (landfill and public safety) and eight more possible – these will be discussed at the State of the Town meeting
- Another development by a private individual that could resell to the schools
- Mention of Ryan Estates wanting solar and not being able to make it work as a non-profit and a condo
- ACTION: Mark D. and Jim H. plan to talk with Isaac from Coop Power about their cooperative models and how they might apply to Lincoln, to report back to GEC in December meeting

Home Energy Assessments – Lincoln Energy Challenge

- Sue Klem reported that she submitted the grant application to National Grid for funding of our Lincoln Energy Challenge.
- Sue provided a recap of the Residential Energy Workshop held November 2 at the Pierce House
 - About 30 people attended
 - 12 signed up for HEAs
 - The participating speakers all did a great job, especially Brie Minarik from HomeWorks who helped make it all sound practical
- Discussion of HEA progress, Christina R. reporting
 - Since September 1, HomeWorks had completed 14 HEAs
 - 35 are scheduled over the next two weeks
- Mark D. led a discussion of GEC access to data from HEAs and how to gain permission to follow up with homeowners who've had them
 - Christina confirmed that the only information that they are planning to provide is that spelled out in the Coop Power proposal
 - Christina reported that they have not yet provided any of this information, and that they had no access to the information from the HEAs conducted earlier by Coop Power
 - Christina confirmed they were looking at solar potential as part of the HEAs
 - Mark D. asked if there were a way to get permission to follow up with homeowners after HEAs, and offered to work with Christina on a simple measure that might be implemented in time to catch the next 35 scheduled
 - Christina suggested that there were also other ways the GEC might get permission after the fact by asking at tabling meetings and other public events
 - ACTION: Mark agreed to follow up with Christina about implementing a release and to follow up with Isaac about the previous data owed

Next Meeting December 1, 2017 at 8 am