

Town of Pawlet, Vermont

Energy Group Meeting

Meeting Notes

Date and Time: Wednesday November 7, 2012 @ 12:00 noon at Town Hall

Location: Pawlet Town Hall

Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Gibson egib@vermontel.net
Sue LaPorte sel53@vermontel.net
Harry Van Meter hevanmeter@gmail.com
Ken Friedman kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com

Members Absent: Cintia Morrissey amiconst@gmail.com

Other in Attendance: Gene Bertsche American Clean Energy Supply <all.aces.gb@gmail.com>
John Malcolm
Edie Mach

Purpose/Intent of Meeting: To foster discussion of topics relevant to the awareness of energy use, efficiency and conservation within the Town of Pawlet and to establish and promote guidelines for the implementation of the energy initiatives set down in the Town Plan.

If it is believed that these meeting notes are not complete, accurate, or in context, please notify the undersigned of such discrepancy within ten days following receipt of this record.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
12.11.1	Agenda for today's meeting	Presentation by Gene Bertsche of American Clean Energy Supply and Northeast Community Solar of proposed solar farm in north Pawlet.	
12.11.2	Solar farm location	On the east side of route 30, north of Rt 149, west of the slate quarry and south of White's Trading Post.	
12.11.3	Project area/generating capacity	Four (4) acres - the ultimate capacity of 500 kw at full development.	

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- 12.11.4 Proposed project schedule Phase 1 – one (1) acre development with initial generating capacity of 150 kw to be completed by **Dec. 31, 2012**. Phase 2 – when funding is available.
- 12.11.5 Pawlet town requirements HVM indicated that ACES/NECS made an informal presentation at the August 27, 2012 public meeting of the Town of Pawlet Planning Commission at the invitation of Eric Mach, Zoning Administrator, resulting in a motion, approved by unanimous vote of the Commission to request more detail from the developer in order to evaluate zoning compliance and conformity to the Pawlet Town Plan.
- Mr. Bertsche stated that he attempted to contact the ZA to obtain information about further requirements, but had not had a response.
- Mr. Bertsche promised to send Mr. Van Meter a marked up site plan and aerial photo with the development shown, for discussion with the ZA and to present to the Planning Commission for review. ACES/NECS
- A discussion followed with Mr. Bertsche about community relations regarding such a project that, once granted a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) by the Vermont Public Service Board, can go forward even if objected to by the community.
- John Malcolm said that Gov. Shumlin has appointed a citing commission to provide oversight and to enable communities to give input into such projects before the PSB issues a CPG. Mr. Van Meter said that the residents of the Town of Pawlet had no opportunity in public forum to give input into this project.

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- 12.11.6 Project details
1. Solar & organic farm, ie. organic plantings and possible grazing;
 2. Solar panels are pile-mounted (on metal posts) so that planting and grazing can take place on the ground surface surrounding the piles;
 3. Piles are removable at the end of the project operating life, which Mr. Bertsche said would be approx. 25 years;
 4. Phase 1 will construct infrastructure to make expansion to the full 500 kw capacity easier, but will only install pile and panel installation for the initial 150 kw generation;
 5. NECS purchased the site and is now sole owner;
 6. NECS will own and operate for the first 5 years;
 7. At the end of 5 years NECS will pay off investors and re-capitalize to fully own the project.
- 12.11.7 Project permitting
1. Mr. Bertsche indicated that the permitting process has been completed;
 2. Permitting was done under Act 125, an act relating to solar net-metering, which is a simplified process, circumvents the local zoning permit requirements and provides the developer with a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) from the Vermont Public Service Board;
- 12.11.8 Distribution of power
1. Power will be distributed to the grid;
 2. Group net metering.

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| 12.11.9 | Project funding | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Anchor “tenant” – Community Health Centers;2. Tax equity market – 3 to 5% interest rate – tax shelter to investor as limited partner;3. Smallest investment is \$50,000;4. Shares can be sold to the community;5. Sale of monetized credits;6. Credits sold to any Pawlet resident toward utility bill. | |
| 12.11.10 | Project benefit to the Town of Pawlet | Benefit is indirect by making monetized credits available to Pawlet residents. | |
| 12.11.11 | Other business | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mr. Van Meter stated that the Group needs to get back to the PACE proposal to present to the Select Board for consideration for the spring 2013 ballot;2. Harry, Sue and Elizabeth will attend the “Saving Town Money: Implementing Your Energy Audit” meeting hosted by the RRPC in Rutland on Thursday Nov. 8, 2012. | PEG

HVM, SLP,
EG |
| 12.11.12 | Next meeting | Wednesday December 5, 2012 | |

Submitted by:

Harry Van Meter, Recording Secretary