

West Newbury Energy and Sustainability Committee October 25, 2023

Present: Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace, Camden Holland, Rick Parker.

Solar site feasibility study. Rick and Chip had a call recently with representatives of Ameresco. They work on larger projects only, and promised to provide contact information for a developer of smaller projects. We shared the feasibility study report with them and they came back to us with questions. Chip will respond to their questions so they can give us their thoughts about some of the projects.

Rick had contacted B2Q to request the model they used to estimate economic feasibility of various projects. They expressed some reluctance, but may be willing to provide it if we promise not to share the information with anyone else. Camden observed that the additional information is required for the town to adequately understand the contents of the report. Rick will follow up with Tom Banks at B2Q.

Rick, Chip and Camden recently had a call with Power Options to discuss how they could help West Newbury analyze and implement solar projects. Incentives for solar projects are declining in Massachusetts, and it is necessary to define and submit potential projects for review before December 31 when the incentives will decline further. We are interested in Power Options assistance in analyzing the DPW rooftop and ground mount projects. Also, if the Housing Authority is interested and approves, we will ask for help with the Housing Authority rooftop project. Camden will contact Power Options, and Rick will contact the Housing Authority to determine their interest in the rooftop project.

Committee questionnaire for Select Board. The committee reviewed the second draft of the questionnaire and approved it with minor changes. Chip will submit the final draft to the Select Board. At a future meeting we should discuss further the potential to modify town permitting fees to encourage energy conservation and renewables projects.

Annual committee report. Chip will prepare a draft report for review at the next meeting.

Next meeting. Moved to November 29 at 5:30 pm to avoid the night before Thanksgiving.