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Minutes Energy Committee June 8, 2022

Committee members present at the meeting: Brendan Denehy, Tracy Perry, Jan Reimers, Scott Butcher and Tad Putney.

Brendan called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

Introductions

Members introduced themselves to **Scott** and he provided background on himself to the members.

Charter Discussion

Brendan referenced an email from **Tracy** with items to clarify from the committee charter. He said the length of the “multi-year plan” is not defined but can be 5-10 years in his mind. **Brendan** said he would like to see the town set a target to be carbon neutral by a point in time.

Tracy said she wonders how the bigger potential projects, like solar at the Safety Complex, fits into a larger strategy. **Brendan** said the Selectboard is open to ideas on the strategy/plan for energy. **Tracy** said she would like to see us decide on guiding principles and metrics to evaluate all the potential projects EEI identified in their energy audit – and see which ones rise to the top. She said we can then use the results to determine a multi-year plan. Members agreed.

Members discussed the development of guiding principles. **Brendan** shared the guiding principles that the Selectboard recently adopted for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He said we could use a similar approach for the committee’s guiding principles. **Tad** said we could list each of EEI’s projects in a table on one axis and the other axis could have items such as price, expected life, ongoing maintenance, breakeven in years, etc. and then we could rate each project and component to see how the projects compare/rank.

Tracy said obsolescence should be a consideration. She said if we spend significant money on a project, we should consider if it makes sense to spend

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incrementally more for better technology. **Brendan** said complexity versus results is a key consideration.

Brendan said he is willing to take the lead on drafting the committee's two reports. Members were supportive!

Tracy said public input is something we need to consider. **Brendan** agreed and suggested he seek Selectboard input on whether the Board solicit the input or if they want it sought by the committee.

Brendan suggested that charter's reference to a "warrant article" for funding should be considered more broadly as funding could involve a warrant article, ARPA funds, grant funding, a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or a combination of any.

Scott said Wilton investigated placing a solar farm at their Transfer Station (approximately 1.25 acres in size) but discovered the lack of three-phase power made it so they could not feed electricity back to the grid.

Brendan suggested that **Keith McBrien** from EEI could assist us with developing a table with our guiding principles after the first portion of next week's meeting.

Brendan said he will include an update of the committee's work at Monday's Selectboard meeting.

Minutes

Tracy noted her named was misspelled. *Tracy moved, seconded by Jan, to approve the minutes of the May 26th meeting as amended; Voted Yes 3-0-1, with Scott abstaining.*

Next Meetings

Members confirmed the next meeting will be on June 15th at 7:15pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes submitted by Tad Putney.