



**TOWN OF  
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street  
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360**

Telephone (603) 673-8855  
Fax (603) 673-8136

**HYPERLINK "http://www.brooklinenh.us" <http://www.brooklinenh.us>**

***Minutes  
Solar Committee  
Wednesday, October 7th, 2020***

Committee members attending via Zoom video conference: Brendan Denehy, Maria Bechis, Jacob Solon, Dennis Comeau, Joel Shacklee, Kelly Seeley, Patty Smith.

Also present: Dennis Bechis, Tad Putney

**7:16pm Brendan** opened the meeting. **Brendan** said we are meeting electronically under Executive Order 2020-04 and Emergency Meeting Orders #12 and #23, which allow for remote meetings. All committee members stated they were social distancing, some with others present in their homes, but not in the room. **Maria** was in attendance with Dennis Bechis.

**Approval of minutes**

**Patty** moves to approve minutes from the last meeting, **Dennis** seconds. All in favor, minutes approved.

**Agenda adjustments**

None

**Review Energy Consultant responses and recommend to Selectboard**

The committee has received proposals from 3 out of the 4 companies contacted, including Resilient Buildings Group, Energy Efficient Investments (EEI), and Energy Services of New Hampshire. The committee decided it needs time to review the proposals, some of which are extensively detailed. It is planning to discuss and make a decision at the next meeting.

**Brendan** noted that the proposals have several styles, some which offer purely auditing services and one (EEI) which will primarily do the upgrading service. **Tad** said he also reached out to Mike Davie at EEI who explained that they offer different services from what we requested. The audit would be free and they would offer any recommended upgrades at a cost.

**Dennis** cautioned that the company which offers the free audit may not give the best quality audit, given that they will have motivation to sell extra upgrades.

**Tad** asked **Kelly** what the Brookline school board plans to do regarding their energy upgrades. She said she does not believe the school intends to pursue anything related to the solar project this budgetary cycle.

### **Clean Energy NH. Henry Herndon**

**Henry** introduced himself and shared that Green Energy NH is a 501C# ORganization which is heavily membership based. There are 3 broad member categories: individuals, businesses, and local governments. CENH deals with all kinds of renewable sources and clean tech. **Henry** specializes in municipalities in NH such as Nashua, and said that Brookline is the 29th municipal member of CENH.

**Henry** recommended the committee talk to someone at Eversource via NH Saves to see if the town can get any funding and to see about getting the energy efficiency auditing for which it is currently working to select a proposal.

**Brendan** shared some background with Henry on Brookline's past work with energy efficiency upgrades and the objectives and work of the Brookline Solar Committee.

**Kelly** asked how many schools are members of CENH. **Henry** said they do not specifically work with schools at the moment but have plans to expand in the future. **Brendan** explained that the committee hopes to combine with the school the public education phase.

**Maria** asked if the town of Peterborough is a member of CENH. **Henry** said they are not, but he knows the administrators in charge of the project and could get them in touch with the committee.

**Tad** asked what are the top services that CENH typically provides to municipalities. **Henry** said three main services they offer are networking within the clean energy community, education on clean energy (including webinars and the Local Energy Solutions newsletter), and technical assistance specific to members' projects. They also share policy updates so that town members can be involved.

**Tad** said he will send the emails of the committee members who are interested in signing up for the newsletter to Henry.

### **Committee Report to Selectboard**

**Brendan** said the committee needs to send a report to the selectboard soon. He asked if **Dennis** might be interested in working on the short summary report since he had expressed interest in doing so in the past. **Dennis** agreed to write a draft of the report for review at the next meeting. **Patty** offered to assist as well. **Dennis** asked if there is any key wording to use for the report. **Brendan** and **Tad** said they would send over some information based on the committee charter and typical formatting for selectboard reports.

### **Other Business**

**Brendan** suggested that for the next meeting, the committee examine the proposals that were received and compare them to our original RFP to evaluate them.

**Patty** shared that a town member who has solar at his home, Ed Cook, expressed interest in helping when the project reaches the solar planning stage.

**Maria** suggested the committee should be named the Brookline Solar and Energy Committee instead.

**Jacob** asked if there is a need to pay Dick Henry for any of the time he spent with the committee.

**Kelly** said that he does not expect anything since it was just a preliminary meeting.

### **Set next meeting date**

Meeting set for **Wednesday October 14, 2020 at 7:15pm.**

Meeting adjourned at **7:59.**

Minutes submitted by Jacob Solon.

Revised 10/14 by committee to correct date in header.