

Town of Harvard Energy Advisory Committee

BRIAN SMITH – CHAIR
DAVID FAY
PAUL GREEN
FORREST HODGKINS
ELLEN SACHS-LEICHER

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:
STUDENT MEMBER:
LIAISONS:

PETER KELLY-JOSEPH
OPEN
KARA MINAR, SELECT BOARD
SUSANMARY REDINGER, SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SUSANMARY REDINGER, CAPITAL PLANNING
TBD, FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 1/13/21

Attendees: B. Smith, D. Fay, F. Hodgkins, P. Green, E. Sachs-Leicher, Peter Kelly-Joseph
Kara Minar, Chris Collins (Energy Conservation, Inc. (ECI) part time)

Location: **This Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.;**
Zoom Meeting ID: 819 5301 7406

	Meeting Discussion/Status
Admin	1. The minutes of 12/9/20 were approved 5-0 without comment.
Schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> HES Existing Solar Panels ~6kW – The process has been defined by Marie Sobalvarro. The equipment is to be designated surplus and then listed on an auction site for government property. There will be insurance and other legal requirements for the winning bidder. The panels will need to be removed by end of April. There are SRECs that will continue for up to 2022 once the system is installed. HES Solar ~245 kW Behind the Meter project earliest June 2021– <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Interconnect Application – denied by National Grid to Solect Energy. The Ayer substation requires upgrade in 4-5 years. An impact study was required by NGRID and the costs are the responsibility of the applicant. David set up a call for 12/15 with NGRID and Rep Dan Sena to review the details of the rejected Interconnect Application and evaluate options for a path forward. – Ellen, Brian and DOER Kelly Brown and Joanne Bissetta attended the call. In the following weeks, NGRID re-evaluated the conditions assigned to the application and formally stated that the conditions would not be required. A new application was resubmitted by Solect Energy. HEAC is working hard to get this important project started as soon as possible. The new application will be based on improved technology and may result in a different incentive. Roof Warranty – David will coordinate a discussion about the Town's roof warranty concerns with Joe Tardif, Alice Von Loesecke and the HES Project Manager.
Town Energy Project Updates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Green Community Program <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report – DOER accepted the report without any comments. GC2021 Spring Competitive grant application due April 9 (rebate applications will also be sent to NGRID to lock in incentives)–Energy Conservation Inc. has reviewed the Bromfield and Library buildings for weatherization and mechanical/electrical system opportunities. After multiple visits to each building, targeting proposals end of January. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ECI noted that any project can be paid with on-bill financing, essentially paid with the savings. This is not likely for Harvard since these projects should be funded 100% with GC grants. Bromfield Transformers – NGRID has incentives for more efficient dry type transformers and this type of project is becoming more common. ECI is developing a list and has initially identified qty 8 of different sizes. The key is that many of the applications are oversized transformers operating at a lower than optimal load and therefore lower efficiency. The goal is to change from operating at 15% to 55-60% load. Each

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	<p>transformer is to be monitored to determine the actual load over a period of time. The transformers are for mainly plug loads and it is important to HEAC to ensure the loads are monitored over several weeks (prefer a month) to understand the typical loads and be able to allow for future growth. NGRID covers ~45% of the cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Library/Bromfield Weatherization – mainly air sealing, door sweeps; insulation opportunities are limited to Library attic spaces. iv. Bromfield Mechanical/Electrical – ECI is working to define a project to add small 3-5 hp VFDs for the air handling systems. v. Town Buildings – ECI can review other town buildings for opportunities. For example, other town building with transformers that have significant use can be added to the project even though the quantity may be small. <p>2. Library Energy Use Review – Forrest reviewed what data is available from the energy sensors – the latest record of recording was from Oct 2018. Forrest and David are meeting with Pete Jackson to review opportunities at the Library. No update.</p> <p>3. Charging Station – HEAC is working with ECI to evaluate charging stations at three locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. HES – Brian to provide background and drawings to ECI for review. b. Library – Brian has had preliminary discussion with Davida Bagatelle of the Library Trustees about the possibility of adding a charging station. c. Bromfield – HEAC discussed comments on the Green team survey. The survey will be issued to staff and students at Bromfield to evaluate the demand for a charging station. <p>The MA state EVIP program should provide 100% of the funds required for the equipment and a good portion of the installation depending on the location. There is a new program for a Fast-Charging station which requires a larger footprint and additional equipment.</p> <p>4. Streetlight – Conversion to LED. David reported that NGRID asked if Harvard would be interested in upgrading the Town streetlight to save \$1600 a year and received a one time \$3400 bonus. Harvard is the last town in the area to participate in this program. David will request approval from Tim Bragan. Discussion points are the light color/brightness level, exempting antique fixtures, or exempting specific locations.</p> <p>5. Solar strategy – Kara expressed interest in reviving the effort to have a global review of solar opportunities in Town. An example presented was the Town gravel pit that could be used for ground mount solar. DLT grants may be available to review the feasibility. The solar overlay district could be expanded to include additional locations. Brian to evaluate plan with Kara.</p>
Subcommittees/ Initiatives	<p>1. Community Resiliency Working group CRWG (Chair Peter Kelly-Joseph)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consultant KLA issued a framework for a Climate Action Plan b. MVP Phase 3 – Planning phase for Energy Module – this may involve a battery storage system CRWG would apply for a grant for an Energy Module effort. An Energy strategy or goal would be part of this effort. Ellen to provide the CAP report for discussion at a future meeting. <p>2. Energy Policy Subcommittee (Chair Paul Green)– Plan to integrate this into the</p>

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	<p>Climate Action Plan effort.</p> <p>3. Master Plan Status - Residential Energy Conservation Forum – to be considered in the FY21 plans. – On Hold</p> <p>4. Net Zero Stretch Code – HEAC discussed sending a letter of support for this new code to the BBRS along with other communities. HEAC members support sending this letter and it was agreed that we should request backing from the Select Board. The draft was discussed and Ellen will work with Paul to finalize and send to the Select Board.</p>
	Meeting adjourned 10 pm
Future Meetings	2021 Jan 13 Feb 10 Mar 10 Apr 14 HEAC Meeting Location/Time: 8 pm. – Virtual until further notice