

Dunbarton Energy Committee Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2019

Members Present: Bob Ray, Dana Lavoie, David Elberfeld, Lou Duval, Bob Martel, John Stevens

Public: None

Meeting opened at 7:05 PM

1. Feb. 18 meeting minutes approved.
2. Public comment: None
3. Town Solar
 - Dana informed that Granite State Solar has bought the materials and intend to begin installation in mid-April.
 - Will use 395 watt vs 380 watt panels
 - Granite State will coordinate site plans and installation with Woody Bowne
 - John mentioned that Marty Bender said that the Webster installation had a lower than expected check from their supplier. (Unitil) Will follow up after the Webster committee meets and Marty bender contacts us.
4. Neighbors Warming Neighbors
 - We will list the NWN on the Dunbarton Community Group Facebook post.
5. Energy Expo
 - Goffstown Ace hardware has donated Lightbulbs and will put up an EXPO poster
 - We will do a class for the 5th graders at Dunbarton Elementary school on April 3rd, 9 to 10 AM. Will give some lamps to the students at the class. Lou, Dana and John will present.
 - John will send out a list of Kids' games
 - The workshops will be in the school library and teacher's conference room.
 - Bob Ray will supply chili for vendor and volunteer lunch.
 - Post workshop schedule and content on the Dunbarton Community Group Facebook post.
 - Dana will show his newly purchased Tesla electric car at the EXPO if it is delivered by then and vehicles from Larry Cook and others if available.
 - John will finish publicity to publications.

- Add electric cars exhibit to publicity notifications.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

Next meeting: April 15, 2019

Respectfully submitted: John Stevens

Dunbarton Energy Committee Meeting Minutes, April 15, 2019

Members Present: Bob Ray, Dana Lavoie, George Holt, David Elberfeld, Lou Duval, Bob Martel, John Stevens

Public: None

Meeting opened at 7:05 PM

1. Mar. 15 meeting minutes approved.
2. Public comment: None
3. Energy Expo review
 - Attendance was slow as was workshop attendance although vendors were pleased with the leads they generated.
 - Combine EXPO with Old home day or Arts on the Common?
 - Change date to mid – late fall?
 - Combine efforts with other energy committees? Need to contact surrounding towns to restart their energy committees and see if the Central NH Energy Hub can be re-started.
 - Federal incentive for solar will drop from 30% to 26% in 2020
 - Incentives for heating (pellets, etc.) still exist at state level.
 - George will contact Central NH Planning Comm, on local energy hubs
 - Involve local civic groups in the Expo
 - John will poll vendors to review the Expo
 - When are other trade / home shows?
 - 2nd week in May or in conjunction with OHD?
 - Larger facility / school? Goffstown ran a show at the high school, Lou will fine info.
 - David will research energy speakers from the UNH series
 - Energy tour by bus or a map to show solar installations+? Will address this at next meeting.
4. Town Solar installation progress at the Transfer Station

- GSS is fluffing locations for the panels and electric lines. Will interface with Woody Bowne.
- GSS applied for permit with Eversource on transformer sizing etc.
- Town building permits have been received. Will consult with the Town Forest Committee on necessary tree removal needed.
- George will approach School about their electric bill costs and possible savings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM

Next meeting: May 20, 2019

Respectfully submitted: John Stevens

Dunbarton Energy Committee Meeting Minutes, May 20, 2019

Members Present: George Holt, David Elberfeld, Lou Duval, John Stevens

Public: None

Meeting opened at 7:07 PM

1. Apr. 15 meeting minutes approved.
2. Public comment: None
3. New ideas:
 - Develop a resource for answering people's questions about solar issues
 - Investigate the effect of local easements for solar installation
4. Town Solar installation progress at the Transfer Station
5. Approved \$30 reimbursement for Dana to attend Clean Energy NH class on Renewable Energy Taxation 101
6. Old Home table – We plan to have a table at Old Home Day. George has table, need to staff.
7. George will investigate the issues with the school hot water solar installation. It is not producing output.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM

Next meeting: June 17, 2019

Respectfully submitted: John Stevens

Processed.

Dunbarton Energy Committee Meeting Minutes, June 20, 2019

Members Present: Bob Ray, Dana Lavoie, David Elberfeld, Bob Martel, John Stevens

Public: None

Meeting opened at 7:05 PM

1. June 20 meeting minutes approved.

2. Public comment: None

3. Town Solar

- There was a meeting held at the site with Selectmen, Town Forest Committee, Town Building Inspector and Erik Shiflett from Granite State Solar. The Forest Committee voted to approve tree removal and to contribute up to \$2500 to the cost. The Town will contribute the balance. The price from Voydatch lumbering was quoted at \$4500.

- Eversource and PUC have approved the installation

- Installation tentatively begin July 8-12 with the trench for the power wiring a week before.

4. A pamphlet was proposed to describe the solar project process point by point, beginning to end.

5. For the Old Home day booth, Dana offered to develop a solar presentation and help man the booth. John will get the posters and table cover from Bob Ray.

6. Bob Ray will decommission the “NH Energy Exchange.org” site which was used for the local energy committee roundtable group which has not met for several years. Members voted to approve the decommissioning.

3. New ideas:

- Develop a resource for answering people’s questions about solar issues

- Investigate the effect of local easements for solar installation

4. Town Solar installation progress at the Transfer Station

5. Dana offered to put together a class to teach details on solar installation including tax credits will likely be dropping to zero over the next several years, benefits of Community Solar programs, tax advantages to solar companies leasing and more as appropriate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

Next meeting: July 15, 2019

Respectfully submitted: John Stevens

Dunbarton Energy Committee Meeting Minutes, July 15, 2019

Members Present: Dana Lavoie, George Holt, David Elberfeld, John Stevens

Public: None

Meeting opened at 7:14 PM

1. June 20 meeting minutes approved.

2. Public comment: None

3. Town Solar

* Installation anticipated to begin on July 29, may start power line trench a week prior.

* The firewood pile will be removed before installation begins.

* Dana plans to post a notice on the Dunbarton Community Group Facebook page.

* Once this project is complete and in use, could that provide information and data as ground work for a similar installation at the School? Has Bow done any school solar projects? John will check.

4. Old Home Day table plans,

* Dana has a 10 x 10 tent. George has a table.

* John will bring the table edge banner and NWN posters

* Possibly initiate in-town solar tours.

* Will need electric at the site.

* Possible LED bulbs raffle if we have enough bulbs. Dana will make a fact sheet.

5. Discussed the possibility of substituting the PAREI approach (utilize the NH Saves audit vendors vs us conducting the home audits ourselves) We could be more of an information resource to residents on solar and other subjects. Dana can contact Henry Herndon on details of such an approach.

6. Has the school solar monitoring system (Heliodyne) gone inactive? Is the cause that Heliodyne dropped the service or is the cause the heating system revisions?

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM

Next meeting: Aug. 19, 2019

Respectfully submitted: John Stevens

Dunbarton Energy Committee Meeting Minutes, August 19, 2019

Members Present: Dana Lavoie, George Holt, Bob Martel, John Stevens

Public: None

Meeting opened at 7:10 PM

1. July 15 meeting minutes approved.
2. Public comment: None
3. Town Solar
 - Granite State has changed the panels to 395 watt
 - Will have a full monitoring system
 - GSS has requested the Town electric billing address
 - There will be a greater distance between panel rows, front row closer to the burn pit
 - Will provide additional clearance for dumpster town truck
 - Rocks from excavation instead of concrete blocks will be used for traffic blocking
4. Old Home Day table summary
 - Location area brightness interfered with computer presentation viewability
 - There may be less of a need for electricity access if electric vehicles are part of the exhibit
5. NWN planning:
 - We may want to consider outsourcing audits to certified auditors, Vital Communities (Upper Valley) has implemented this approach with good result. Need to investigate further
 - Consider presentations instead, such as solar tours, electric vehicle information
6. We will begin to investigate possible solar electric at the school. Some site availability was investigated a few years back. Also need to contact administration at school and Bow.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM

Next meeting: Sept. 16, 2019

Respectfully submitted: John Stevens

Dunbarton Energy Committee Meeting Minutes, Sept.16, 2019

Members Present: Dana Lavoie, George Holt, Bob Ray, David Elberfeld, Bob Martel, John Stevens

Public: None

Meeting opened at 7:07 PM

1. Aug. 19 meeting minutes approved.

2. Public comment: None

3. Town Solar

- The installation is having delays, Dana is following up on the cause and finish date information.

4. NWN:

- We will continue the program this season and put out notice cards and post on Facebook and the Town Site if possible. Last year had only 3 requests.
- We will investigate the Upper Valley Weatherize program as an alternative approach to our local NWN program. That program utilizes NH Saves and operates in a region covering multiple towns. We will contact the Central NH Regional Planning Commission and the Local Energy Solutions group to start.
- Try to re-form the Central NH local energy group to facilitate the program.

5. Energy Expo:

- Look into including surrounding towns involvement to increase attendance and possibly move the event to a September date.

6. Electric Vehicle education program:

- Dana participated in the Concord event, one of the statewide Electric vehicle information program locations.

7. School hot water solar:

- The system is currently not operating. George will replace the pump. The committee voted to pay for the pump out of the committee account, will meet with the Selectmen for approval.

8. Giving the changing times and needs, we will talk about revising out mission statement at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

Next meeting: Oct. 21, 2019

Respectfully submitted: John Stevens

Dunbarton Energy Committee Meeting Minutes, Oct.21, 2019

Members Present: Dana Lavoie, Bob Ray, Lou Duval, Bob Martel, John Stevens

Public: None

Meeting opened at 7:07 PM

1. Sept. 16 meeting minutes approved.
2. Public comment: None
3. Town Solar
 - The contractor will have concrete blocking installed to mount the panel framing instead of planned driven anchor rods due to more underground boulders seen than planned for. Estimate completion within a few weeks.
4. NWN:
 - Members agreed again to continue the program this season and put out notice cards and post on Facebook, the EC website and the Town Site if possible. Last year had only 3 requests, received one request so far this season.
 - The person who runs the Upper Valley Weatherize program has offered to consult with us on setting up a similar program for our area. That program utilizes NH Saves and operates in a region covering multiple towns. No response so far from the Central NH Regional Planning Commission.
 - Try to re-form the Central NH local energy group to facilitate the program. There are less functioning energy committees so it may be difficult to use that approach.
5. School hot water solar:
 - The system is currently not operating fully. George replaced the pump. The school will pay for the pump from their maintenance budget. The sensor at the panels is functioning erratically, George will check and replace as needed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM

Next meeting: Nov. 18, 2019

Respectfully submitted: John Stevens

Dunbarton Energy Committee Meeting Minutes, Nov. 18, 2019

Members Present: Dana Lavoie, Bob Ray, David Elberfeld, Lou Duval, John Stevens

Public: None

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM

1. Oct 21 meeting minutes approved.
 2. Public comment: None
 3. Town Solar
- Proceeding slowly. No new information
4. LEC Conference
- John will send out a conference summary once it is available from Henry Herndon.
5. NWN:
- John will contact residents who have requested an audit.
 - We discussed changing the program to a "Weatherize" program similar to the "Weatherize Upper Valley" program. They will be sending out a guidance toolkit early 2020.
6. Review our mission statement:
- Change to more of an information source w/ "vision statement"
 - Message / appeal to public to improve energy efficiency and lower their energy costs.
7. Approved invoice from Bob Ray for EC website maintenance. \$205.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM

Next meeting: Dec 16, 2019

Respectfully submitted: John Stevens

Dunbarton Energy Committee Meeting Minutes, Dec. 16, 2019

Members Present: Dana Lavoie, Bob Ray, David Elberfeld, George Holt, John Stevens

Public: None

Meeting opened at 7:04 PM

1. Nov. 16 meeting minutes approved.
2. Public comment: None
3. Town Solar
 - No new information, electrical wiring yet to be done
4. NWN:
 - Add feasibility of solar installation on resident's property to the client report. DO an on-site assessment of siting potential. Include availability and advantages.
 - Take a more positive approach to advancing solar installation.
5. Review our mission statement:
 - Leave mostly as is with modifications
 - Add "In Town Buildings", "Equipment", "Vehicles".
 - George will email current mission statement and members will comment over the next month with further suggestions.
6. Energy Expo
 - Set event date at the January meeting.
 - Possibly end of April? Still cool and after tax season.
 - There may be too many other events and distractions for a fall date.
7. Area Energy Hub
 - Replace the now non-existent Local Energy Committee Hub. Many towns energy committees are no longer active.
 - John will contact Henry Herndon to find what his vision for this as he presented at the Local Energy Solutions Conference, get names of town energy people from past year's activities for Dana to approach and check with Judd, Eldredge and local state reps for the history of why the Bow Energy Committee was discontinued
8. Local solar installation public visits, Dana
 - John check with HAREI for advice/guidance ideas
 - Lou has names of local installations owners.
 - George will check with Garden Club for use of their mailing list
 - Could post visits on EC website and Dunbarton Community Group Facebook posts.
 - Best timing could be April / May. Best for clear skies, output, warmer but still cool weather, after tax season.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM

Next meeting: Jan. 20, 2019

Respectfully submitted: John Stevens