

Minutes
York Energy Steering Committee
January 17, 2019 7:00 pm

Location: York Library Wheeler Room

Present: Rozanna Patane, Chair, Stephen Kosacz, Vice Chair, Wayne Boardman, Liz Kinzly, Harry Mussman, David White, Gerry Runte

Guests: Lucy Brennan, Deane Rykerson, Mac MacAbee, Bob Brisebois, Susan Covenor, Skip Schnable, Len Looman, James Kences, Deborah McDermott

1. **Minutes:** December minutes approved unanimously.
2. **Deane Ryerson brief on legislative energy agenda**

Rep. Rykerson summarized some of the initiatives underway both in the new legislature and from Governor Mills' office. He hopes that a solar bill very similar to what was vetoed a few years ago by Gov. LePage will be passed as "emergency legislation" (quick track requiring 60% approval in both houses). This would relax the cap on the number of meters served by a community solar installation and provide a fairer alternative to replace traditional net metering. Also in the works are a bill to update Maine's building and energy codes, a boost to Maine's Renewable Energy Portfolio to 80% by 2030, and a bond to provide Maine towns and cities with matching grants to invest in clean energy and energy efficiency projects. Deane is sponsoring "An Act to Price Carbon Pollution in Maine," which would put a price on carbon (initially \$5 per ton) at the wholesale level and return the fees to every Mainer who pays an electric bill. Rozanna encouraged Deane to pursue initiatives that didn't leave behind Maine's lower income home owners and renters.

3. **Old Business**

- a. **Data Gathering Process - Lucy**

Lucy reported progress in gathering energy data from the Sewer, Water, and School Districts, including town-wide vehicle emissions. She is using ICLEI's Clear Path software to convert fuel and electrical use to greenhouse gas emissions and will include all this data in her next presentation to the Select Board.

- b. **LED streetlights update - Rozanna**

At the last BoS meeting, the Board appeared ready to follow Celtic's recommendation to proceed with RealTerm instead of CMP. However, a request during the Citizen's Forum by a representative of Affinity Lighting led the three Board members present to direct the Town Manager to take steps to open the whole process up to bid again. It seems clear that a simple RFP would be insufficient and that a multi-step RFQ process would be necessary for such a complicated project. Rozanna will attempt to work with the Town Manager and Celtic to make the case at the next BoS meeting for proceeding as planned with RealTerm.

- c. **York Large Solar PPA update – Gerry**

Gerry reported discussions with ReVision Energy regarding PPA options for financing large solar installations. It appears that when financing 500 KW and larger projects, it may be possible to reduce the cost of generated electricity to 8-10 cents per kWh, which would put it very close to the standard offer. To provide 100% of York's municipal and other public electrical needs, it may be necessary to maximize the landfill, install some rooftop solar, and include some

additional ground-mounted solar arrays.

d. EV Charging Station Subcommittee – David

David is still in communication with Ann Stevenson, Communications Director for Efficiency Maine Trust and has been reassured that York will be given adequate time to apply for matching funds for charging stations.

e. Future agenda items and upcoming events

- a. SolSmart webinar Thu 1/24 2:00 pm
- b. South Portland Climate Action and Adaptation Plan – Lucy
- c. Possible guest: CES – Gerry
- d. Possible guest: Peter Glick re his new company to help nonprofits w solar PPAs
- e. Other: more architectural firms, energy consultants, EcoMaine, EV charging station vendors, Newburyport Sustainability Coordinator (Liz)
Goal is our own education relative to upcoming work.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Boardman