

Madison Town Energy and Efficiency Committee

Madison Town Campus September 24, 2019

MINUTES

Members Present: Woodie Weiss, Chairman, Guy Mannino, Tracy Juengst, Gary Naegel. Absent was Dick Evarts, Francis Pullaro, Ron Hick Also present were residents: Selectman Al Goldberg, town residents David Klein, John Dickson, and C. Thomas Paul, and guest James Schwartz from Independence Solar.

1) Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Weiss.

2) Approval of August 2019 Minutes: Motion by Gary Naegel and seconded by Guy Mannino to approve the August 27, 2019 meeting minutes. This passed unanimously.

3. Presentation by James Schwartz of Independence Solar in Essex CT. James introduced his company as a regional commercial solar systems, and showed pictures of previous design builds for the Lee Company and Bishops Orchards and showed pictures of the proposed project for Kleins' Golf Range in Madison. He mentioned with this project they have approval from Eversource and are waiting for the State Siting Council's approval. He then described a few options the Town of Madison could consider that potentially save 10 percent in electric costs per year. Chairman Weiss said that the state has used up the funding earmarked for net metering capacity so towns will have to see if the general assembly increases it. James said if they don't then there are two options to look at: a) municipalities can be offtakers in a community solar program and fill it out with low and moderate income residential offtakers; and b) if the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) entered direct solicitations of projects of different size ranges and do an auction for buying energy recs.

Woodie asked what the shared solar mechanism was and James said 10% savings on the credits they provide. Tracy asked if the savings would be higher if the town owned the property and James said it would no be higher that it would be 10% savings plus rent. Tracy asked that in the town's PPA arrangement, the town gets the solar panels after 20 years, is this the same for Independence Solar? James said that it was not. Tracy mentioned that the possible location for a system is the old town dump and this is located kitty-corner to David Klein's place and maybe that could get interconnection. Woodie mentioned that if the town had a plan for its future energy needs and was interested in pursuing a PPA virtual net metering they would do so through soliciting RFPs.

4. National Drive Electric Week Event Re-cap—Woodie said he, Dick Evarts, Gary Naegel, and Al Goldberg were there and that he gave many test rides. He said Gary brought a portable electric charger and there was an electric go cart and an electric bicycle and 9 electric car owners came out to give test rides and the people who came were very comfortable with the owners as we love our cars. Gary added that the 9 cars gave the public a great cross section of car types (BMW i3, BMW i8, Chevy Bolt, Nissan Leaf, Tesla 3, Tesla S) and the people asked a lot of detailed questions and had long engaged conversations. He said there was a lot of response and interest in the brochure with the tax incentives even though the Federal lessens after a certain number of EVs are sold and the state is different by what kind – hybrid, non-hybrid bought in the state. He added that next time we should publicize the event through the Chamber's E-blast.

5. Portfolio Manager Update – Gary said he and Tracy are working on filling in gaps of data.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Abigail White, Recording Secretary