

SUSTAINABILTY COMMITTEE

April 21, 2016 4pm

Attending, Beck, Rockefeller, Shubert, Smith, W., Smith, T., Kiley, Lampher, Lunt, D.

Mr. Gordon Beck chaired the meeting in Mr. Lichtenstein's absence and provided the reports.

The Select board granted the committee's request for funds for a streetlight inventory on April 19. Matt Lambert, a graduating MDIHS senior, will be engaged as a seasonal worker (via DPW) to catalog the town's street lights, using GPS to confirm light locations, types, conditions and specifics and compare to the pole data supplied to the Town by Emera. Kyle Avila has incorporated the Emera data into GIS software so that all streetlight locations will be able to be identified with all specifics. Sample light listings, GIS maps and GIS metadata were distributed.

Beck and Lichtenstein attended an April 14th meeting of the Maine Energy Work Group focused on streetlight conversion. They made contact with Nathan Poore, the Falmouth Town Manager, who encouraged us to take advantage of the work already done – and continuing – by Falmouth on streetlight conversion. They also talked with Dick Davies, a consultant for several towns in Southern Maine. Valuable information and advice was obtained at this meeting, which will serve the Committee well in the coming months. Beck explained that the PUC is still completing details for streetlight LED conversion, including pricing and rate structure.

Next steps are to: complete inventory of street lights; PUC to approve the form of the contract between the utility and the town; PUC to finalize list of tariffs; RFP to be generated (based on the Falmouth model) for Lighting Design firms to work with the Town as the process unfolds.

Beck announced that next Tuesday Revision Energy will tour town-owned properties with potential for solar arrays. The goal is to identify and evaluate suitable sites for a possible Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), based in part on the Bar Harbor model. Chief Bender and Mr. Savage of the PW Department will join the tour at respective sites.

Beck discussed Community Solar Farms and the fact that the Bar Harbor CSF is now fully subscribed. Beck described their process and the general financial structure.

Beck discussed the possibility that some utility work might be considered for aesthetic reasons as part of the NEH revitalization. He noted his comments are speculative, but there may be impact on village street lighting.

Beck pointed folks to the A Climate to Thrive website, where information on various MDI-wide efforts is located.

The next meeting is scheduled at 1615, town meeting room, May 4, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 5pm.