

Medfield Energy Committee – Renewable Subcommittee

3/31/23 Minutes

Attendees: Chris Gordon; Fred Davis; Megan Sullivan; Hilli Passas; Susan McPhee; Emily Lowney and Brittney franklin

- MSH – there was a proposed warrant article to allow solar at MSH. Since then the planning board pulled this back and something to reconsider in 2024.
- On solar at MSH Fred asked if in 2024 is too late. It was noted that solar can be added later at the site. Hilli shared that there may be electric infrastructure considerations associated with the solar. It was noted that the solar infrastructure issues can be addressed when solar planned.
- Fred asked about coordination with buildings in regard to MSH, and I noted that at this point, we have shared our request to incorporate and there is no warrant article, and that solar can be added later.
- Solar outreach : one of the science classes at HS made it extra credit ; and there were a few people from the town and a showing at the library. And upcoming solar presentations on 10th and 11th at the public safety building .
- Last week Emily and Hilli mailed out 200 letters to folks that about the schools and told them about the project and where the arrays were planned and what a canopy looked like. We have offered them to ask for more information. The team has been monitoring social for any concerns, but none so far.
- Survey results – 25 responses – 64% support; 16% no and 12% not on rooftops. Reasons are financial . Continue to promote the survey – I am cautiously optimistic.
- 4/26 is meeting of warrant committee and discuss article 26, which gives school committee ability to address PPAs. And Monday night warrant committee is having this same conversation. Essentially, they were concerned that school dept had not done enough due diligence. Megan is going to develop short presentation on project, highlighting that the article is an operational article.
- Megan and Susan suggested more outreach with news paper articles and encourage folks to look at solar canopies at other installations.. Chris noted that the renderings from Solect will be helpful.
- Hilli asked if school is sending out to the parents, and it was noted that is planned.
- On 5 year plan, Gus had requested we develop a 5 year plan and the idea was a workshop or technical session, but this has not been scheduled.
- Susan noted that there is a lot of movement in planner world, right now 3 towns do not have planners.
- Fred – the idea of RFP to update the long-term plan? Hilli noted that Kristine is working on this with the long-term plan.

- Megan noted that on general solar outreach, the movies, and 4/10 and 4/11 activities and pull together some program for climate week, and sustainable Medfield thinking about spring social and invite people who have solar, to share their experience.
- Fred reminded that Tricia has an article to submit – Emily asked if we have an article about the survey.
- Susan noted that for the canopies, on middle school and HS, these are on 1 site but 2 canopy projects . The school needs to submit the letter, so this unlocks our ability to apply for smart.
- Fred – theoretically solar on slate roof for MSH – possible to reach out to federal legislators to possible to interact to see what could be done in regard to national park service guidelines. Would David Temple, over historical society be amenable to PV tiles or panels on the roofs. I am not clear if old slate can be used or must be replaced. Solar Design Assoc says they are not in favor of solar tiles due to maintenance over time, and over time, have been less efficient than PV panels.; Hilli forwarded an Italian company making historic looking roof tiles that are PV devices but there is doubt the efficiency is high
- Megan – Discussed post card from Sustainable Medfield that will promote solar and will be sent to 1 carrier route in Medfield, around 300 households.
- Penni moved motion to support solar postcard; Chris seconded – this was affirmed by all.
- Megan is going to send a letter to people who have solar installations and ask if they will share their solar experience with other that are considering – this will happen soon.
- Susan noted that perhaps Solect might support funding the solar mailing and all agreed that this is a good idea. Chris said that he would be happy to run this down.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Penni Conner