

**Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
March 12, 2015**

Attending: Jon Briggs, Deb Harrison, Mark MacLean, Leigh Hafrey and Chuck Kabat, Virginia LeClair

Guests: Michael Greis, Mark Sylvia, John DeVillars

Jon Briggs opened the meeting of March 12, 2015.

Approval of Minutes

J. Briggs made a motion to approve the minutes from January 5th. C. Kabat second. All in favor.

J. Briggs made a motion to approve the minutes from February 23rd. L. Hafrey second. All in favor.

Discussion with John DeVillars, Mark Sylvia, and Michael Greis from Blue Wave Capital

John Devillars, Managing Director for Blue Wave introduced his colleagues – Mark Sylvia, former Director of the Green Communities Division and Undersecretary of Environmental Affairs, now Managing Director at Blue Wave. John Devillars was the Secretary of the Environmental Department and Head of EPA New England. Michael Greis is a consultant with Blue Wave. The group is here tonight to discuss solar possibilities in Dedham. They identified sites and assessed their solar capabilities. Blue Wave has worked to secure PPA with cities and Towns in the past, which typically last 20 years. Customers can see upwards of 20 -30% reduction in electricity costs from solar. Besides looking at solar for rooftops, Blue Wave is exploring options of parking canopies. Due to recent incentives parking canopies are now more financially feasible DeVillars explained.

Blue Wave also discussed community solar, which right now has extra incentives. Community solar is a good program for homeowners who can't put solar on their home.

C.Kabat asked about the Greenlodge School – would you remove the woods to install a ground mounted solar array? Would a solar array like this work in a neighborhood? What about glare from the panels? John DeVillars explained that you can shield the PV system with a fence and a row of trees, but you have to make sure the trees do not block the solar panels. PV panels are passive neighbors, very little noise or glare.

As far as where parking canopies could be located the Keystone Parking lot was brought up as a potential site. However, V. LeClair pointed out that it is designated as Expedited Permitting under Ch 41. An ideal location would be the top of Legacy Place parking garage.

The installed cost/acre for the ground mount is \$2/watt which would equal roughly \$2 million. A parking canopy is more expensive at \$4/watt which would equal roughly \$4 million. There is a 2/3 cost for construction.

The group explored the idea of installing parking canopies along Rt 1, in the area of Wigwam Pond. V. LeClair mentioned that due to the Town's stormwater bylaw the parking canopy would

need to have stormwater integrated. D. Harrison asked who pays for the stormwater system? John DeVillars thought that they would cover that cost. V. LeClair was concerned about the depth to ground water in that area.

Community Choice Aggregation Discussion with Good Energy

C. Kabat updated the Committee on his investigation into Good Energy. He contacted one of the references that Good Energy provided, an attorney in IL who was very happy with them. He said the savings were good and the experience was seamless. They had a great communication plan and generally people were happy. They still received only a single bill and the rate was lower. Good Energy provided them with 3 choices:

- 1) Regular Power
- 2) Green Power
- 3) Hybrid Option

They went with the green power option, but they do not know the source of that power.

J. Briggs asked V. LeClair to draft a letter from the Committee endorsing this process and send it to the Board of Selectmen. Next the Committee took a vote J. Briggs stated - all those in favor of supporting the concept of community choice aggregation. All in favor.

Goals for 2015

Continued until the next meeting.

Old/New Business

N/A

Adjourn

Jon Briggs made a motion to adjourn. Deb Harrison second. All in favor.