



## Energy Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes - May 3, 2016

- Draft -

**Attending Members:** Chuck Reiss, Richard Watts, Carrie Fenn & Richard Hopwood

**Non-member present:** Dick VanVliet

Meeting Started: 7:15 p.m.

Reviewed minutes of previous meeting and approved by committee @ 7:25 (no changes)

Meeting Agenda:

#### **Dick VanVliet & Chuck Reiss visited Boardman Hill Solar Farm and shared information**

Meeting was w/Roland Marks and Greg Cox (owner). Photos of general site, array and fencing around array was shared by Chuck. Questions about State Fees and who pays taxes on leased land were brought up for discussion. Chuck had copies of the Operating Agreement and Land Lease Agreement for us to look at and discussion.

What drives the need for fencing around ground mount arrays was discussed. Some fixed arrays have fencing and some do not. Cairns Arena is adjacent to public land and has no fencing? Why none there vs. other sites.

Questions discussed:

Is it the PV wires being exposed?

Inverter voltage?

Pole vs. ground mount?

Richard H. suggested having discussion with coworker about fencing and site requirements for Dick's project. Set-up site visit with him to get feedback. There are concerns about how to get power out to Dick's site and how we might be able to eliminate the need for fencing site.

Boardman Hill has a 25-year lease (Land Lease Agreement)

Off-takers lease the panels?

Greg Cox gets 5% of the power for his own use is written into the agreement.

Greg owns the land and receives \$2200.00/year

Members pay \$8.50 per panel for / tax increase, insurance and maintenance per year

28 members @ Boardman Hill Solar / ea. member gets the 30% tax credit

Site is 305w panels

Important note is REC's not sold for this project / they are retired for ever

Project was built with 1/3 upfront.....1/3 progress payment.....1/3 at completion

### **How to move forward with Southwind Community Solar Project**

What is the next step for forming LLC?

What is the cost of project?

Discussion ended with action for Richard H. to have site visit with Doug M. (coworker) & determine what drives the need for fencing at solar sites. Will share info at next meeting.

Committee moved to next subject regarding Net Metering 2.0 meetings in Montpelier on May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. Information shared from REV and VEC. Discussed that Richard H. may attend and to share feedback at next meeting. Talking points for the meetings from REV printout discussed.

Discussed the House approval of the Energy Siting Bill and how this affects local projects (ex. Magee Hill)

Siting Bill and its relationship to the Hinesburg Town Plan was discussed.

Started discussion about sites in Hinesburg. Chuck shared photos of town owned buildings that are potential sites for roof top solar. Library, Town Hall, Health Center, new Water treatment building, parking lots for overhead solar installations.

What sites are currently good sites in Hinesburg?

Document these sites / Where is three-phase in town? Where is single phase?

Industrial / 3-phase / add buildings / not farmland / put a map together showing best options.

### **Discussion moved to Town Plan**

Language of the plan in regards to Screening & Siting / How to get it into Town Plan.

Chuck will talk to Alex about timing for finalizing Town Plan.

### **Discussion moved to Magee Hill Solar Project**

45-day preliminary notice was submitted as of May 2nd

Drawings submitted to developer with screening options by neighbors. Clusters of trees & shrubs on berms. Looking for bigger setback from road & supplementing roadside plantings. Developer set drawing just today? with new plan. Discussion was that plan was better but still did not meet neighbors' concerns.

Motion to Adjourn @ 9:20. Meeting Adjourned.