

# **Committee Members**

**Martin Dietrich, Chair**

**Nicholas Fair, Vice-Chair**

**Jason Reposa, Member**

**Wally Long, Members**

**David Travalini, Member**

**David Fitzgerald, Member**

**Stephanie Carlisle, DPW Staff Contact**

**Frank Rossi, Select Board Liaison**

**Bob Tucker, PEDB Liaison**

**Cindy Sullivan, School Committee Liaison**

Town of Medway

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting

October 19, 20022 - 7:00 pm

Medway Middle School

Department of Public Works (DPW) Conference Room

**Members present:**  David Travalini, Martin Dietrich, Nicholas Fair, Dave Fitzgerald Stephanie Carlisle, Wally Long, Nicholas Fair, and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary.

**Also Present:**  Charlie Myers, Cindy Sullivan, School Committee Liaison

**Absent:**  Jason Reposa

**Also present:** Byron Woodman, Senior Director, Solect Energy, LLC.

**Call to Order**

***Martin called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm***

* **Public Comments**

Charlie Myers was present for the meeting and would like to discuss the future of hydrogen vehicles (Alt Wheels Event).

* **Action Items**

1. **Presentation by Solect Energy LLC on the solar proposals for the Memorial School roof, Burke School roof, McGovern School roof, and canopies at the Middle School and High School.**

Byron Woodman, Senior Director of Select Energy LLC. (Solect) introduced himself and stated Solect was founded in 2009 and is based in Hopkinton Massachusetts. Byron has been in the industry for three decades. He stated Solect builds large scale solar project and many of their clients are municipalities.

Byron explained that Power Options is the largest energy buying consortium of public and non- profit members in New England. Power Options delivers cost savings and predictability to nearly 500 non- profits in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) can help against the rising energy costs. Byron stated he is going to go over the homework he has done to date and will allow time for discussion and questions after.

Byron stated there are no upfront costs to the town and they do all the installation. The agreements are for 20-25 years and there is no maintenance for the town. Marty asked what happens at year 26. Byron stated that prior to year 26, the town can negotiate for a longer term or have it removed. Nicholas asked what would happen if Solect went out of business. Byron stated the project would then go to another energy company. Byron stated each system is held as its own LLC and payments would come from the Commonwealth. Wally asked if better technology comes along in 15 years, what would happen then. Byron stated they would take a look at their options and move forward from there.

Byron presented a summary of use for each of the potential schools. Memorial: 58 percent, Burke: 201 percent, McGovern: 93 percent, Medway High School: 59 percent and Medway Middle School: 59 percent. This comes out to 63 percent of total energy usage. It would be the core backbone. Byron went over the specifics for each school and stated Memorial’s roof would need to be replaced; Burke & McGovern’s roofs look good. Marty asked how much it would cost to buy it all. Byron gave a rough estimate of about 3-4 million dollars. If we owned our own system we would probably need a service agreement with them for the maintenance.

Charlie asked if they considered the height and distance for the Fire department to get their trucks and ladders in close to the roof in the event of a fire. Byron stated they do consider those factors and the Fire Chief has to sign off on the plans before they do anything.

Stephanie stated she would like to focus on the Memorial school roof and the middle school canopy. Once these projects are completed, people will see how they look and work and the cost savings etc.

Byron presented a spreadsheet with an estimated Savings of PPA Term. There would be a savings of 2.1million on the high end and 1.7 million savings on the current projected energy costs. Stephanie thinks this is a conservative estimate. We also have to consider the cost of a new roof at the Memorial School.

Nicholas thinks we should present this solar project to the School Committee. They could present the pros and cons and present the specific projects they think they should focus on. Cindy stated she would like to present a solar project summary to her Facilities Sub-committee first. Costs and aesthetics are the two biggest concerns**. Action: Stephanie will update the spreadsheet to reflect the current Eversource supply rates, the timeline to reflect the PPA term if the School were to approve the projects within the next ten weeks, and adjust the assumed 5 year contract supply rates for Cindy’s meeting tomorrow with her subcommittee**.

Dave T. stated we shouldn’t wait because the rates are good now but are going to go up. Dave T. asked Byron how long these rates are good for. Byron stated the rates are locked in for 18 months and incentives for 2 years after the interconnection approval is signed. Byron stated the commonwealth models an average 2 percent increase annually for electric supply rates. In three years, he thinks the rate could be three times what the rate is now.

1. **Discuss solar proposals and cost analysis. Decide what to present to the School Committee.**

Discussed above.

1. **Discuss the draft comments to provide the Select Board regarding Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in the Town of Medway.**

Martin stated we support the concept but have some concerns. He sent in his comments and referenced Charlie’s letter. Charlie has been asked to be an intervener. He has sent a 10-12 page document to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office. Dave T. would like to allocate twenty percent of the funds to energy conservation projects.

1. **Update on the electric vehicle and charging station infrastructure discussion with the Police Chief.**

Stephanie met with Police Chief Kingsbury, Sergeant O’Neill, Fire Chief Lynch, Michael Boynton, Town Administrator, Peter Pelletier, DPW Director, and Sean Harrington, DPW Deputy Director. The Police were hesitant about switching to electric and hybrid vehicles because they say the State Police force has had a bunch of issues with them. The Dodge Durango, Ford Explorer and a pick-up truck are the only pursuit rated vehicles. They are concerned about the supply chain issues. They would consider a hybrid vehicle for the administrative vehicle used for conferences. The DPW has concerns about the plow trucks which need to be running 24 hours in a snow storm and can’t have down time charging.

Stephanie stated she told them she could look at funding and discounts from the Green Communities grant. Dave T. thinks we should have the Needham Police Department that uses Electric Vehicles come and talk to the Police Department. We should also focus on the savings and emissions.

1. **Update on the Alt Wheels event held October 3, 2022.**

Dave T. and Stephanie attended the Alt Wheels event. One concern is that emergency vehicles need to be charged and ready 24 hours per day.

Charlie stated he will come to another meeting to talk about zero emission transportation for town vehicles. Hydrogen Vehicles are one option. Charlie stated that Federal money is available and there are pockets of state money that you can draw on. We should also look at the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). Charlie stated power take off is a feature that is coming in. You can power a gymnasium and can convert school bus fleets.

1. **Update on topics to discuss with Select Board in November.**

Dave T. is prepared to discuss electric vehicles. Wally will have a presentation about other easy, solar opportunities to present to us at the next meeting. We will plan to meet with the Select Board in December not November.

1. **Discuss when the Energy and Sustainability Committee should meet with the Planning and Economic Development Board.**

Dave T. would like to talk to them about the stretch code. Stephanie stated she gave the Planning Board information about Stretch Code and will continue to work with them.

1. **Discuss the outcome of the Eco-Event held on September 25, 2022.**

Stephanie stated the Eco-Event went very well. Feedback from the community was great.

Wally asked if we could change our meeting start time to 6:30pm instead of 7:00 pm. Everyone was ok with changing the meeting start time to 6:30 starting next month.

* **Housekeeping**
* Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 21, 2022

No meeting minutes were approved.

Dave F. suggested we list the acronyms and their meanings on the minutes the first time they are mentioned. For example- PPA (Power Purchase Agreement), BESS (Battery Energy Storage System), ENF (Environmental Notification Form.).

* **Adjourn**

***Nick. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm. Wally seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rozak

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| **Upcoming Medway Energy & Sustainability Committee Meetings**  *Meetings are typically the third Wednesday of the month* |