

# **Board 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**

**Cindy Sullivan, School Committee Liaison**

Town of Medway

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting

May 17, 2023 – 6:30 pm

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

**Also Present:** Andy Ike from BEAMvia phone

**Absent**: Nicholas Fair

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**Call to Order**

Martin called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments

**Presentation from Andy Ike from BEAM, a portable solar electric vehicle charging station.**

Andy Ike, Sales Manager from BEAM was present via phone. Andy introduced himself and explained that the Beam Global Company has the world’s fastest off grid charging units for electrical vehicles. Andy further explained their product is called EV ARC and they don’t need any permitting, construction, electrical work, and don’t have any utility bills. The EV chargers are level 2 wall mounted chargers that other companies are using but powered by solar. The solar array moves with the sun throughout the day to maximize solar consumption. It comes with its own battery storage and stores energy when you are not using it on rainy days, winter months or during a black out. Andy explained that the chargers are moveable which is beneficial if you have to move them for any reason such as an expired lease. The units are movable but may require special hydraulic equipment if moving more than a mile. The units are customizable and depending on the brand you select, come with 2 or up to 6 charging plugs. Every unit has a base level of storage that can be upgraded. The average price is $75,000 to $100,000 which includes the solar unit, shipping and set up. The units are also wind rated up to 120 mph and flood proof up to 9.5 feet.

Stephanie asked if the height is customizable to fit a taller vehicle such as a school bus or street sweeper. Andy stated the clearance is 9.5 feet but they have 18-20 foot long cords so a larger vehicle could park in the space next to it. Stephanie asked if any companies in Massachusetts are using these. Andy stated yes but they have not done any municipalities. Stephanie asked if there are any incentives. Andy stated yes there are and they also employ an outside federal funding consultant that can identify federal funding opportunities for each client. They can help with grant writing language if needed. Stephanie asked how long do these units last. Andy stated a minimum of 20 years, they are made with high grade steel which probably will last longer than that. Each component such as the inverter, charger has their own warranty. Marty asked about the maintenance costs. Andy stated the maintenance is very low, you wash the solar panels with a garden hose each month to keep production up. Visually inspect them each month to make sure everything is working properly. There are also firmware updates every few years for $650 per year per solar system. Wally asked how long it would take to get a technician out here if there was a problem. Andy stated they work with a national service company and could send a technician out in a couple of days, maybe longer if it was a more complicated problem. Stephanie asked about network licensing through BEAM. Andy stated you buy the equipment out right and need a wireless solar connection for the unit and the O&M plans are optional. Andy stated they can be set up with Charge Point so you can charge customers for the charges. Dave F. asked about charging during the winter time. Andy explained that temperature, humidity and angle of the sun all play a part in that.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of the product and compared the price to standard solar panels. The general consensus was that these units would be great to have but are cost prohibitive at this time.

**Update on Medway Pride Day educational material, raffle, and other outreach.**

Stephanie stated Medway Pride Day is a rain or shine event. Wally stated he ordered 2 sets of 18 resealable water balloons to give out to the kids or to raffle off. Wally will drop them off to Stephanie or Marty. Jason stated he emailed the QR code information to Stephanie.

**Review slide deck for solar array presentation to Select Board.**

The committee reviewed the slides. Marty stated slide # 3 only points out the schools cost not the towns. Stephanie doesn’t think this slide needs to be part of the presentation. Stephanie corrected some of the numbers and calculations on the slides. Jason suggested mentioning that the town could have locked into a really low rate a few years ago but didn’t and now we have the chance to lock into another low rate. Marty stated on slide # 9, there should be an asterisk next to cash flow positive day 1 one that says except for McGovern. Marty stated the last slide should send the message that if they want to save money, this is something they should consider. Marty suggested ending the presentation by stating we can provide more information if they want but the decision is in their hands.

* **Report from Chair**

Nothing to report

* **Report from Sustainability Coordinator**

Nothing to support

Dave T. mentioned he spoke to some of the kids at the Clean Sweep and asked about the recycling program at the school. The kids stated there is not a recycling program but there is a blue bin but nobody ever uses.

* **Housekeeping**

1. Approval of April 19, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.

***Dave T. made a motion to approve the April 19, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Wally seconded the motion and all members stated they were in favor and the meeting minutes were approved.***

**Adjourn**

***Wally made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Jason seconded the motion and all members stated aye they were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rozak