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+Local Energy Committee Minutes

February 18, 2025

6 – 7:30 PM, Nesmith Library & Teams

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Mark Kovacs @ 6:01PM.

Attendees: Allen Reed, DJ Withee, Heath Partington and Mark Kovacs in the Conference Room; Pat Manzo and John Gage via TEAMS.

1. Old Business

a. Minutes for December 3, 2024, LEC meeting approved by a vote (5-0)

b. Status of Nesmith Solar Power system – Pat Manzo

Pat reported the performance of the Nesmith solar system since its inception in late 2022. Grid usage has fallen from approximately 85,000 KWH in 2021 to a net 5,600 KWH in 2023. The system has reduced the electricity cost by approximately \$2,900 in its first, two full years of operation. With a PPA “buyout” at the end of year 5, the system shall have paid for all electricity and system purchase by year 12. By year 25, the system shall have generated approximately \$250,000 in savings after covering all procurement, operating and maintenance costs.

Currently, the Nesmith Library 3rd-party supplier is Constellation Energy which provides no compensation for energy delivered to the grid. Removing the Library from the contract with Constellation Energy would allow the Library to switch to Eversource as the default supplier who would compensate the Library for energy delivered to the grid. To avoid any penalty for removing the Library from the contract, DJ suggested that we consider approaching Constellation Energy with a proposal to remove the Library from the contract, but offer to ensure that the Town will use, at least, the total contract energy originally agreed to. DJ and Pat will review the contract terms and the Town’s projected usage excluding the Library to



see if this proposal is workable. They will raise this matter with the new Town Administrator shortly after he starts the job in early March.

c. Streetlighting Upgrade Project – J. Gage

John reported that Affinity has completed installation of the upgraded streetlights. Mark said he had also spoken to Alex Mello, who had been dealing with Affinity most recently. Alex confirmed that Affinity had completed the installation in January. Mark commented that he had confirmed that streetlights along Lowell and Range Road had been changed to the new LED lamps.

d. Community Power status – Allen Reed

Allen reported that recent pricing offers did not meet the LEC's requirement that program initiation would only occur if a price lower than the current Eversource Default Rate could be offered. He is waiting for Standard Power to reply to his status request from yesterday. It appears that Program Launch may be delayed until September. He will pass along Standard Power's assessment ASAP; afterwards, the LEC will likely update the BOS in late March.

2. New Business

a. Future Solar Generation – Mark Kovacs

Mark reminded the Committee that the LEC had proposed solar systems for the Police and Fire Departments as part of the future CIP. He suggested that, perhaps, the LEC should take a broader view and consider installing a solar system capable of handling the municipalities total electricity needs. Following some discussion, the LEC will consider several options: individual solar systems for the Police and Fire Departments, a combined Police/Fire Department solar system, and a solar system supporting the entire municipalities energy needs. Pat and Mark will investigate the cost-benefit of these options considering that the Inflation Reduction Act may or may not be available to refund up to 25% of the installation costs. This assessment



will also define the size of the solar system for each of these options. Pat and Mark expect to have this assessment available by March 1.

Allen will contact the Derry Energy Committee who are currently developing a large system using a landfill to see if such an approach would be workable using Windham's landfill area. Allen and DJ will also investigate Town-owned parcels near Eversource distribution facilities to determine siting feasibility.

b. New LEC Opportunities for 2025 – All

DJ volunteered to review the Planning Board's recent Master Plan for energy-related projects. Allen suggested that DJ also review the original 13 pages of projects that the LEC provided the Planning Board during the formulation of the Master Plan.

3. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM by vote of 5-0.