

# Meeting Minutes

## Saco Energy & Sustainability Committee

### February 4, 2020

**Present:** Howard Carter, Jackie McDonough, Pat Fox, Andrew Goldberg, Ryan Sommer, Rob Martin, Glen Baker, Don Roth, Rick Millard, Mike Cook, Ted Gagnon, Andrew Dickinson, Mike Garrity, Emily Cole-  
Prescott

#### **Municipal Fleet EV's**

- Update given by Howard Carter and Pat Fox
- Howard Carter said he enjoyed Jennifer Brennan's electric vehicle (EV) presentation
- Pat Fox said the Building Inspection department Prius might be replaced with an EV in fiscal year 2021
- John Wentworth has been researching electric vehicles to consider for municipal vehicle future upgrades

#### **Engie Utility Billing Software Update and School Department Participation**

- Looking to have an update on the Engie utility billing software from Glenys Salas by the next committee meeting

#### **Energy Zoning Ordinance Updates**

- Update given by Emily Cole-Prescott
- In the zoning ordinance update, EV charging stations will fall under the category of essential services which means they can be sited in greater locations than previously
- EV charging stations for municipal use will be permitted in all zones
- Allowing an increase in the size of pump stations and decrease in the setback requirements, exempt from site plan review standards
- LED light requirements in subdivisions and commercial signage is under review
- Working to promote energy efficiency standards on site plan reviews
- Commercial ground mounted solar energy use will be conditional in the Rural Conservation and Portland Road with certain requirements
- Solar energy for municipal use will be permitted in all zones and may be subject to site plan review

#### **Energy Spreadsheet Updates**

- Jackie McDonough has been working with Dor Bender on a biweekly basis to keep the fuel database up to date
- The up to date fuel usage spreadsheet was sent via email to the committee
- On the spreadsheet you will find a percent variance which compares the current fiscal year to the prior fiscal year, also included is the usage in therms
- The most recent school fuel usage data from Karen Merrill (the accounts payable specialist for the Saco School Department) is included in this month's fuel usage spreadsheet
- CK Burns School and Fairfield School are now connected to natural gas

- The gym at Parks and Recreation is now connected to natural gas, also a stub was installed at the front of the building for future use
- Don Roth said this has created a savings of about \$6,000 in three months
- Don Roth to send natural gas invoices to Jackie McDonough to be recorded in the fuel usage database
- Working with Siemens on whether the chimney at Parks and Recreation should be sleeved or install an accessory chimney unit instead
- Look into back logging a few years of utility information in the Engie database if/when we move forward with Engie

### **Review of The Governors Energy Bill**

- Update given by Andrew Goldberg
- The Maine energy bill that Governor Mills signed incentivizes ground mount large scale commercial investment solar
- A ground mount solar field needs to be in the same utility zone as the customer
- If you're an investor, the best route is to purchase an inexpensive piece of land in CMP territory, build a solar field and sell the power to off takers at less than the current CMP rate, Ex. 10-15% below the standard offer rate
- Howard Carter said the city could consider leasing municipal land for solar use
- ReVision Energy is working with dozens of municipalities across the state to identify electric loads and aggregate them into their Distributed Generation (DG) commercial solar projects
  - Most of the municipalities are signing 25 year (20 years with a 5-year extension option) PPA's for off-site solar Net Energy Billing Credits
  - At about \$0.089/kWh (Net Energy Billing Credit) with a 1.5% annual escalator (starts Yr. 3), that's a future rate of \$0.1164/kWh in 2040 – still below today's value
  - Savings is on CMP delivery charges
- Andrew Goldberg to contact a representative from ReVision Energy to give a presentation to the energy committee

### **Facility Updates**

- Update given by Don Roth
- Final LED push at City Hall, finished installing LEDs at the Camp Ellis Fire Station last week as well as at Parks and Recreation
- The Train Station is relying more on propane radiant heat than mini splits in the winter, mini splits are 5+ years old
- Parks and Recreation natural gas heating system working well, keeping temperature consistent in the gym, working on switching over the front of the building to natural gas
- Leaks in the heating system copper lines at the Police Department have been fixed
- The power and heat is shut off at 12 School Street
- Pat Fox said the bus service moved their hub to the Train Station which has caused an increase in the usage of utilities

### **Bond Projects Update**

- Did not address at this meeting

### **Solar Roof Penetrations at The New PWD Garage**

- Update given by Pat Fox
- Have confirmed with the Public Works building design team that the roof is ready to accept solar, additional roof penetrations can be added after the building project is complete

### **Committee Media Coverage**

- Update given by Andrew Dickinson
- Will be revising the Energy Committee page on the City of Saco website to include current members, goals and activities
- Going forward, information from every monthly Energy Committee meeting will be shared on the City of Saco website as well as social media platforms
- A video piece about the Energy Committee and its accomplishments is in the works

### **City Council Energy/Sustainability Goals**

- Did not address at this meeting

### **New Business**

- Pat Fox to contact a city/town that has completed an LED conversion, ask them to present to the committee in April

### **Action Items**

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**Next meeting March 3, 2020**