

**Nelson Town Buildings Committee  
January 11, 2016**

**Attendees**

**Dave Upton**  
**Dave Birchenough**  
**Lisa Sieverts**  
**Russ Thomas**  
**absent**

- Sandy
- Bert

**Guests**

- Greg Blake, South Pack Solar

**Action Items**

**Greg Blake**

- draft Pros and Cons for the different design options
- Check to see if there are other towns that have used tax dollars for solar
- draft the PUC application

**Lisa**

- Check with Tom Weller about sprinklers for historic buildings
- Talk to Kris Finnegan about a date after caucus, before Town Meeting, for an informal educational solar event with Greg.

**MINUTES**

**Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM**

**Solar for the Library**

**We have an article on the warrant for the funding (\$35,000) for Solar on the Library.**

**Greg asks about timeline**

- The design phase can start immediately as soon as the warrant article passes

**Discussion of optimizers**

- Greg makes the case for micro-inverters
  - With optimizers, you still need a string inverter somewhere, one more point of failure
    - Inverters cost \$2-4,000
  - micro-inverters are DC to DC, a simple solution
    - They are on the roof, under the solar panels
- Dave U says that optimizers are less expensive
- Greg has proposed several choices
  - Micro-inverters allow us to see the production of each module
  - Greg will do a simple Pros and Cons list

**Discussion of removing the tree that shades the library roof**

- it only shades late in the day and when it has leaves
- None of us on the buildings committee are attached to the tree
- No decision made at this time

## **PUC**

- We should put in an application for the rebate, which may be decreased after the PUC meets soon.
- Greg will prepare the rebate form
  - it includes the pathfinder report
  - signed and notarized at the Town
  - this means the PUC sets aside the money
  - Then there is a second application if the warrant article passes

## **Caucus**

- Wednesday February 10

**Dave B and Sandy will work together on case for support, and this is not an official TBC activity**

**Greg will find out if there are any other towns that have put up solar using tax dollars**

- Hancock etc. did it with ARRA money, no tax money b

## **Education**

- Think about 11 AM on a Saturday for Greg to come and talk at the Library. This would not be a Town Buildings Committee or Selectboard event.
  - Schedule for after caucus and before Town Meeting
  - 2/13, 2/20 and 3/5 all work for Greg Blake
  - Lisa will talk to Kris Finnegan

**On December 21st, Congress extended the 30% tax credit for four more years, for residents.**

**Accept the minutes of December 14th**

**Motion by Dave B, second by Russ, to accept the minutes. all in favor.**

**Town Hall**

**Fire Chief provided list of improvements at the end of December.**

**Selectboard has developed an action plan**

**Paul Hemmerich contacted Dave U**

- Paul isn't available to assist in preparing a response.

**Selectboard is waiting for additional reports for the other town buildings**

**Selectboard rough estimate is \$45,000 to fix the problems, and this is without any sprinkler installation**

- We haven't had time to put together a detailed budget
- Sprinkler, if it is required, would cost \$200,000 ballpark
- Dave B asks whether we can go to the Fire Marshall's office and show that we are working on it and ask for an extension until next year's Town Meeting
- We decide that this item needs to be in this year's budget.

**Lisa will touch base with Tom Weller**

**Motion to adjourn at 7:23 PM by Russ, second by Lisa, all in favor**

**Next Meeting**

**Monday January 25th 6 PM**