

# Nelson Town Buildings Committee

October 7, 2019

## Attendees

- Dave Upton
- Dave Birchenough
- Russ Thomas
- Lisa Sieverts
- Sandy Mackenzie
- Earl Creasey
- Absent
  - Andy Wilson
- Guests
  - Greg Blake, South Pack Solar

## Action Items

- Dave B
  - Send the electronic version of the Library RFP to Dave U
- Dave U
  - Incorporate our feedback and publish the RFPs as soon as is feasible, pending Selectboard approval
- Sandy
  - Follow up with Rich Popovic re school solar project
- Lisa
  - Encourage the Antioch student to assist us with writing the case for support

## Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM

**Motion to approve the minutes of 9/16/2019 by Russ, second by Dave B, all in favor**

## MINUTES

- Discussion of Solar RFP
  - Greg suggests we are over-specifying on the bid. What's most important is the number of kilowatt hours. It's OK to specify the amount of physical space available on the hill. It's OK to specify "385 or better."
    - So emphasize **75 kilowatt array** taking the minimum amount of area to allow for

- future expansion. The bidder needs to specify the total amount of space to be used and the layout of the area. We note that the array should be sited as far south and as far west on the hillside as possible, in order to have the smallest impact on the abutters and to have the shortest distance to the Salt shed.
- It's going to be around 75 ' by 80 '
  - Emphasize that it's full electrical load for all municipal buildings, including future ASHP
  - Don't specify ground screws, let the bidders design it. OK to say "no ballasts and no footings" Needs to be secured to the earth without footings or ballast.
    - Greg knows of two ways
      - Screws, turned by a bobcat
      - Anchor Probes, probably called "earth anchors" 60" hole in the ground, wired into the ground
        - Dave U prefers these
        - What about rocks? Thinking it's more gravel than ledge in that area
    - What about volunteering the Highway Department to do the site work?
      - Are we opening the highway department to many days of "free" work (free to the solar contractor, but at a cost to the town)?
      - Need to specify that that Highway Dept will only be involved in the trenching for conduit
  - micro-inverters will be a smaller system than a system with string inverters
    - But the micro-inverter system is more expensive
    - History
      - We did microinverters on the Library because the warranty was 25 years instead of 10 years for string inverter
  - Power
    - 600 feet from the salt shed to the main safety building
    - Specify that contractor has to provide all materials including conduit
    - 300 feet from array to salt shed
  - The Brook
    - Is it possible to go under the creek?
      - Wetlands issues
    - Can the conduit be attached to the bridge?
      - Yes, this is probably the best solution
  - First paragraph
    - Typo
      - "String inverters" not "sting inverters"
  - Dave B brought the RFP for the library solar
    - There's some good stuff
      - Maximum wind speed

- Certification required
    - 25-year cash
  - Dave B will send the electronic version to Dave U ASAP
- We are requesting PPA
  - And the PPA should be set up to be **optional** for the town to buy out
    - This is a DRA recommendation
- Lisa's contact from Antioch still wants to help write case for support
  - We'll get her involved when she gets back from traveling
- Sandy will ask Rich Popovic about why the school didn't go for solar
- Group Net Metering
  - We should specify the number of meters that the town has (6). Dave U thinks this is already in the document, 2nd to last page.
- There is duplication of the Limitations
  - Dave U will bring it down to only one
- Dave B talked to Scott Meslansky about grants for these sustainability projects
  - They do not have grants available
  - But they can offer 3–3.5% loan, which we probably don't want to do
- Selectboard attended a presentation of electric vehicles, as far as heavy equipment, the electric vehicles are not ready for prime time
  - Jessica Wilcox from DES, Dave U has called her
    - She is going to send contact information about buildings and grants, but has not done so yet
- Discussion of ASHP RFP
  - This was developed with help from Dana Nute
  - Dave B reviewed and found one issue
    - Capacity in tons math is wrong
    - But that's OK because it's not going to be used in the RFP
  - We are basically relying on Dana Nute's numbers

## Town Hall Floor

- The new floor is in, Clem from Clem's Flooring in Gilsum is laying down the finish this week. Hall will be open and usable on October 14 if all continues to go well.

## Next Meeting

- Monday October 21