

# NELSON TOWN BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

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June 13, 2022

## Attendees

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- Lisa Sieverts
- Dave Upton
- Patsy Beffa-Negrini
- Dave Birchenough
- Kim Rich
- Absent
  - Earl Creasey
- Guests
  - Greg Blake, South Pack Solar

## Action Items

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- Lisa
  - Research solar on historic buildings

## MINUTES

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- Chair Lisa Sieverts calls the meeting to order at 5:00 PM
- Approve the Minutes of the May 23, 2022 as sent by email on May 25, 2022, motion by Dave U second by Patsy, all in favor
- Meeting with BOS on 6/1
  - Reviewed our letter about ASHPs
  - Talked about our plans for projects and received the go-ahead to proceed with research
- New Members for the committee
  - Lisa has email out to Mike Ezell
- Solar
  - How many watts in a panel these days?
    - Q cell 480 watt modules 87" by 40"
    - Rough estimate of cost: About \$3 per DC watt
  - Supply Chain issues
    - Tariffs against the Chinese, from 10 years ago, they are cheating by sending panels to other Asian countries first (Made in Thailand).

- So worried about retroactive tariffs if buying from Thailand etc.
  - Biden just said “no tariff actions for the next 2 years”
  - Pricing went way up, last couple of months
- New cemetery as location for solar? Idea proposed by BOS, with the understanding that we’d have to start from scratch in terms of finding out if it’s even permissible by the Cemetery Board
  - The cemetery is too far from the buildings that use electricity to be feasible for solar arrays at this time.
  - Greg once did a 1000 foot run from panel to array. Ran it DC to a shed at 500 feet and then AC from there. Otherwise cables were too big.
- Town Hall
  - The electric load here is coming soon with the ASHPs being installed soon
  - Town Hall is probably the ideal next location for solar, all things considered
  - You want to put the solar where the electricity is consumed
    - Otherwise you buy at 20 cents and sell at 10 cents
  - Historic building?
    - Greg’s experience in Hancock, talking to them. They liked black frames that blend in better. There are component choices. Think about covering the whole roof.
    - Lisa will do some research
  - Could build a parking shelter in the back parking lot with solar on its roof. We’ll look at this option of the Town Hall roof is not a viable solution.
- Safety Building
  - Safety Building roof itself is not strong enough for solar panels **CORRECTION on 06/27/22** see these following two bullets
    - The roof of the safety building probably is strong enough for solar because of its engineered trusses, though an engineer has not looked at it to confirm this.
    - What the engineer said was that the roof of the **Highway Garage** was not strong enough for solar (in the past, this roof partially collapsed under snow and was rebuilt).
  - There is room to add a second set of ground-mount solar panels behind the existing panels, especially if cars no longer need to drive around the building going past the police office door.
  - With our current array down there, we use much of the power that is used there and are only exporting a bit, which is ideal so far. But until we convert from fossil fuel heating to electricity, we can’t make use of more electricity from additional solar panels in this location
- Turtle Hill and alternatives
  - The problem is getting the electricity from Turtle Hill and/or the Salt Shed to the grid
  - Select board willing to consider investing in power junction at safety building
    - At some point, the Eversource transformer/grid won’t be able to accept what we are sending, once our solar arrays are big enough
    - However, Eversource won’t provide the cost of upgrades until you ask for something specific
  - salt shed
    - We would use a third party to get from the panels to the salt shed
    - Hwy Garage considered adding an electric service to salt shed, to heat engine blocks
    - Salt shed orientation is not ideal
- Next Meeting

- Monday June 27 6 PM Library Lower Level
- Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM, after walks around the Town Hall and Safety Building