

NELSON TOWN BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

September 19, 2022

Attendees

- Lisa Sieverts
- Dave Upton
- Earl Creasey
- Dave Birchenough
- Absent
 - Patsy Beffa-Negrini
 - Kim Rich

Action Items

- Lisa
 - Finish prep for 9/28 select board meeting
- Dave U
 - Get an Eversource person to come talk to us and tell us what they would do and not do. Also to find out if our hopes for a 2024 array would be sending too much power to their grid.
 - Send Lisa the solar calculations for the Library

MINUTES

- Chair Lisa Sieverts calls the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
- Approve the Minutes of August 15, 2022 as sent by email on August 16, 2022, motion by Dave U to accept, second by Lisa, all in favor
 - A clarification about the 8/15 minutes:
 - The minutes said “Highway Dept is a producer, they will never use as much energy as they produce, today”. We clarify that this does not mean that the solar array at the Highway Department was oversized. Instead, it was correctly sized to cover all plug loads for municipal buildings. In order to use the power correctly, the billing was set up so that half of that solar is allocated to the Town Office and Highway Department and the other half is allocated to the Fire Stations and Police.
- Lisa meeting with Selectboard in 9/28
 - Edie had called Lisa with an invitation to talk to the BOS about Water damage at the Library
 - Lisa talked to Kris today: there are many issues of deferred maintenance, for example, windows with rotted sills, front door and casement needing repair. It’s been 25 years since the Library was built.
- Solar Project

- We continue to work on doing an Apples to Apples comparison of relative costs of putting solar on the Town Hall roof vs. an installation on Turtle Hill.
 - Hard to do Apples to Apples
 - We have prices from the past, 5 years ago and 3 years ago
 - East Facing vs South Facing
 - East: will cost more for equivalent power generation, more panels needed
 - South: will cost less
 - Ground Mounts vs Roof Mounts
 - Electricity usage “before the meter” and “after the meter”
 - Much discussion, but eventually we figured it out:
 - The simple answer to the question of how best to locate and connect a solar array to the grid is that using the Eversource grid to **distribute** the electricity that our solar systems produce costs money, the approx. 10 cents per kWh that is shown on Eversource bills as the Distribution charge.
 - We have estimated that the ASHP’s for all town buildings will consume 50,000 kWh annually. Using the grid to distribute 50,000 kWh of energy would cost the town \$5,000 annually. These “Delivery” costs can be reduced by connecting the solar array to a net meter that directly supplies the electrical loads being served, using the energy before the grid “sees it”. Thus, the recommendation that the Town Hall roof be used to power the Village ASHPs, and another array near the Highway Barn to power new ASHPs there.
- Lisa will prepare a short presentation for the BOS on 9/28
- Long-term plans
 - We are considering recommending the following approach to locating solar arrays and their point of connection with the grid:
 - (1) Power the Town Office and Town Hall and Library ASHP’s from an array on the roof of the Town Hall connected to the Library net meter. 2023
 - (2) Power the Fire/Police and Highway Dept. ASHP’s from solar arrays on the east facing roofs of the Safety Building, and/or the East facing roof of the Town Barn, and/or a ground mount system in the parking lot behind the Town Barn. Array output to be connected to the existing Police/Fire and Highway Dept. net meters. 2023 or 2024
 - (3) Begin discussions with Eversource to bring a grid connection to the Sand/Salt Shed. A solar array would be located on Turtle Hill and used to power vehicle charging stations located in the parking bays on the southwest side of that building, once the Town has municipal electric vehicles and equipment. Eversource may bring in the poles and wires if there is a load to service, which we do not have today.
- Motion to adjourn at 6:46 PM by Dave U, second by Dave B, all in favor

Next Meeting

- Monday October 3, 6 PM, Library Lower Level