**Bethlehem Energy Commission**

Tuesday Aug 1, 2023

**Agenda**

Bethlehem Energy Commissioners: Chuck Phillips, Alex Graziano, Bruce Caplain, David Van Houten, Dan Crosby and Mary Lou Krambeer. Excused: Tiffany Miller, Scott Caisse

**Mission** The Bethlehem Energy Commission encourages and supports economically and environmentally sensible energy practices in Bethlehem, NH.

**Minutes** from June meeting -motion to approve David, second by Bruce. Approved unanimously.

**Public input** -- none

**Town solar project** – David will contact Robert Blechl and Angel Larcom to write articles. Working on a live solar link on the town website.

ELECTIVE Pay – any solar turned on this year will give us a 30% refund. Rules still in process. Apply in the Fall to IRS. Funding will come in May. Idea: let’s think of reusing dollars saved from our projects and put it into a fund for future energy efficiency projects.

To Do: Bruce and Melissa to contact Hanover and other towns for setting up and funding an energy fund from the savings of energy efficiency projects.

**Village District wastewater:** revised wastewater solar contract returned. Village District to meet next week to sign contract. David will attend meeting. $ have been approved by voters. NBRC grant for $110,000 is pending, decision coming by August 31.

**Village District water:** Next BEC project: solar at water plant. We need a DES audit. Has been requested waiting on decision from DES on timing of visit.

**Main Street Solar –** Bruce, Chuck and Gabe working on this project. They will apply on Oct 1. REEP grant will cover 50% -- PMR, Super Secret, Maia Papaya, and Rosa’s (as each building has a new roof and is ready to go)

**Solar tax exemption –** the Town has a $25k solar tax exemption, should that be increased? Should we change wording to a 100% tax exemption for solar arrays that are net metered or off-grid. This excludes utility scale producers. Having it used where it is used. Melissa will look into what other towns are doing. Dan will think deeply.

**EV Chargers** – Select Board has received two bids on the RFP to investigate the process of installing a municipal EV Charger. Proposals due: August 15

**SB letter to Eversource –** Mary Lou will ask Clean Energy NH what they are working on with the PUC. Perhaps a letter from our Town could help advance current initiatives underway. (This request was suggested in public input by Barry Ziter at our last meeting.)

**Building code** – there is a grant to update the building code. Bruce will talk to Code Enforcement Officer.

**Everything else** – Community Power person would like to meet with the Town of Bethlehem in October. Bruce will send us dates. David will place this on the September agenda.

**Adjourn** at 7:03

**Next meeting**: Tue., Sept. 12 at 6:00 at Bethlehem Library

 Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83190509297