

Town of Dublin Energy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 2, 2022
7 PM at Town Hall, ground floor

In attendance:

In person: Blake Minckler, Jack Munn, Susan Peters (Select Board), and Jude Nuru from ReVision Energy.

Solar. Jack introduced Jude Nuru, Director of Community Solar Initiatives at ReVision Energy. Jude explained that ReVision helps communities with building and financing municipal solar installations through a power purchase agreement. ReVision assists with permitting, installation, and connecting the solar array to the power grid. ReVision has worked on projects where the solar array has been built on a capped landfill. ReVision's investors pay for insurance and benefit from the tax write-off and own the system for a minimum of five years, after which a municipality can buy out the system. Under the Inflation Reduction Act, municipalities are also eligible for direct partial reimbursement from the U.S. Treasury Department. Blake commented that he would be in favor of including a residential component so that potentially the entire Town could benefit from a municipal solar array. Dublin's landfill site offers promising potential because of its proximity to three-phase power. Jude also discussed community solar, a means by which an individual may join a cooperative in order to participate in solar.

Jude explained that there are solar opportunities for communities in New Hampshire which is not saturated with solar (Vermont and California are saturated with solar). Solar technology has gotten more efficient over the years, with solar panels now designed to last for 40 years. Black solar panels help to eliminate glare. The base of the panels starts at 3 ft off the ground, and can extend to 11 feet in high, with a 35 degree angle to the panels. A fence is required for an array greater than 100 kilowatts. The planning process takes time, and it takes about a year to get a project off the ground. A developer can work up a proposal which may require approval at Town Meeting. There are various ways to structure the contract, including using net metering or leasing the land in exchange for an income stream.

Community Power. Susan reported that she attended Nelson's Community Power Committee meeting on November 1. They shared some of their experiences and accomplishments over the past eight months, including a link to a format they used for surveying their residents. They have drafted their own community power plan, and have also been exploring the potential benefits of opting into Cheshire County's Community Power Plan, which is up for vote by the county delegates in December. If Cheshire County goes ahead with community power, Nelson's committee feels this could offer a good opportunity for their community. It would mean that the town would not be

responsible for drafting, adopting, and administering their own community power plan. The community would be relying on the expertise and oversight of Cheshire County - which has indicated that participating communities will have a "seat at their table" with respect to community power.

Jack, Blake, and Susan agreed that it would be very helpful to learn more about the Cheshire County Community Power Plan, which could also work well for Dublin for the same reasons. Community power can help meet community needs by offering lower electricity supply rates and encouraging the use of renewable energy. It would be helpful to do a community survey to learn more about Dublin residents' interest in community power. It was agreed that Susan would reach out to Cheshire County Commissioner Terry Clark to schedule a time for the committee to meet with him to learn more. Committee members present continue to see value in joining the Community Power Coalition of NH in order to benefit from their resources and expertise. Further education of Dublin residents is essential to ensuring that people understand how community power works and its potential benefits.

September 28, 2022 minutes

On motion made by Jack and seconded by Blake, the minutes of the September 28, 2022 minutes were approved as amended.

Action items:

1. **Municipal Solar.** Jack and Blake will continue to explore municipal solar.
2. **Schedule public meeting on community power.** Susan will contact Commissioner Terry Clark to schedule a meeting with Dublin residents to learn more about Cheshire County's proposed community power program.
3. **Dublin Advocate.** Susan will write an article on community power for the December issue for the Advocate, and encourage residents to come to the meeting with Commissioner Clark.
4. **Survey.** Develop a survey to engage Dublin residents and solicit their thinking about electricity energy sourcing and community power.
5. **Coalition.** Follow up about joining the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30 at 7 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan W. Peters