

11/15/21 Glover Energy Committee Minutes via Zoom

Present: Jack Sumberg, Ann Creaven, Angela Daniels, Heather Clark, Mariel Hess

Glover Solar Array

- Discussed present status and next steps to take in seeking CPG from PUC - given the concerning feedback we've gotten - particularly that from WEC and from NVDA's Dave Snedeker.
- Next steps in negotiating a resolution are yet to happen. **Jack will email Kevin Davis to see if Norwich Solar Technologies is doing anything about this.**
- NOTE: Even if we are not successful in getting CPG status, we hope to start conversation around Vermont about addressing these issues.
- We agree to review (and try to understand!) the VELCO 2021 Plan Draft that addresses the SHEI (Sheffield Heights Export Interface) constraints - including their "incentive/penalty" position and how to negotiate how much you would pay them when they had to shut down a wind tower because of too great a load coming in.
- What can be done when there is more electricity generated than there is capacity on the grid?
- We note that a number of things need to be improved: distribution, transformers, and substations.
- We imagine battery storage might help solve the problem. We understand that VEC will give a credit if someone has a battery for electrical storage.
- We think NVDA should be doing something about this problem, but it doesn't sound like they're going to take it on.
- VELCO is responsible for maintaining the grid.
- We agree to ask someone from VELCO to come to one of our Glover Energy Committee meetings to explain the grid "constraints," including on an interstate level. Ann will research who to contact from VELCO and also from NVDA**
- Newly passed Federal Infrastructure bill includes money for solar installation.

-Heather agrees to draft a letter to send to relevant parties about issues we've been having in acquiring CPG status with the intention of getting more support legislatively and otherwise, for us and other municipalities.

-We brainstorm contacts to send this letter to: Vermont Systems Planning Committee, Vermont Senators, Vermont Reps, Governor Scott, VELCO, Bernie's Office, Peter Welsh.

-Remind ourselves that none of this will happen fast

-Solar at Town Garage is not feasible due to being so far out toward end of power line and fact that it is not 3-phase. Size of array would have to be pretty small - so just not really worth the effort.

-We question whether joining school with their solar array project might be worthwhile especially since rooftop projects get accepted pretty automatically.

-If projects are considered on their merits (as Jack was told by PUC) - it seems that our proposed Glover Solar Array project should qualify.

-It doesn't seem fair that wind projects trump Town solar projects; all efforts to implement renewable energy sources over fossil fuel should be considered especially given the dire realities of climate change.

-We float the idea of making Glover fossil-fuel free. We realize it would be a huge lift to accomplish this. Both money and education would be required. Approaching it through an equity lens would be essential. In the present politically charged environment - this could be quite challenging.

Window Inserts

-Successful community "builds" in Glover, Sutton, Vershire, and Craftsbury this year.

-We are not of one mind on continuing an annual "build;" some see a benefit in skipping a year.

-Consider collaborating with other town groups in our region doing inserts on how to get word out (share outreach), how to maximise efficiency, etc.

-**Start by having a local coordinators' meeting. Jack will initiate.**

-Discussed promoting inserts through a video. Consider sharing the one made early on featuring Jack explaining the window insert program.

Energy Efficiency Efforts

- Should focus on Transportation since it consumes the greatest amount of fossil fuel energy.
- Can we get laws changed to include bike paths as integral part of our roads? At this point bike lanes are a policy, not a law.
- We could perhaps focus on bike path between Greensboro and Barton?
- Work on getting funds for charging stations?

Next Meeting: Monday, December 6th at 4pm via zoom