

## **Williamsburg Energy Committee Minutes for April 27, 2021**

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**Members Present:** Neal Anderson, Paul Fenn, Dick Guzowski, Charles Dudek, Jim Piermarini (Chair)

**Others Present:** None.

Meeting called to order at 4:03PM.

**Minutes:** Meeting minutes from March 30, 2021 approved unanimously.

### **Updates**

- Small Business Energy Efficiency Opportunities: Piermarini reported that information opportunities for low- or no-cost efficiency upgrades have been mailed to most of the small businesses in town from the Town Offices and that he will drop the remainder off in the coming week.
- Energy Audits for Dunphy School and Other Town Buildings: Piermarini reported that the last audit was in 2019, recommended that we contact vendor to get fresh audits, and will identify contact for authorization and proceed from there.
- Expiring Energy Contracts: Piermarini noted that existing contract for energy contracts will expire in August. Fenn mentioned that aggregation of municipal and residential electricity purchasing can even the load and reduce the cost and recommended that the Committee explore the same. Piermarini will investigate and report back at next meeting and the Committee will discuss further.

**CCA Presentation by Paul Fenn:** Committee member Fenn gave an informational presentation on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). He first explained that CCA is not a “product.” Rather, it is a structure through which municipalities can change the way they purchase energy (e.g. electricity, heating fuel) to achieve their community’s energy and environmental goals. He emphasized that CCAs have been in Massachusetts since the 1990s, that they are designed to be tailored to individual communities and to be easy to implement, and that customers can opt out. He also discussed economic advantages for individual consumers, as well as broader advantages for achieving energy, environment, and climate goals. Finally, he discussed incorporation of microgrids and how they allow on-site generation and sharing (physical sharing, purchasing of shares) and can reduce the need to connect to the grid and increase energy resiliency. He used the plan for Dalton, MA as an example in his presentation.

The Committee discussed CCA possibilities for Williamsburg, both in the shorter and longer term. A short term possibility is joining the Western Massachusetts Community Choice Energy CCA (Amherst, Northampton, and Pelham) that is now forming. Whatever the case, the Select Board has decision and authorization authority. Other questions arose, including whether PVPC would or could play a role and how much of a critical mass is required to go to the next step.

Throughout the discussion, Fenn noted that he has a professional connection to CCAs and would be cognizant of identifying and properly handling any COIs that might arise in his advising the town or donating his time and effort going forward.

This topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 18 at 5:00PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30PM.