

Williamsburg Energy Committee

Minutes for June 22, 2021

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

Others Present: Joe Palange (Commonwealth Electric)

Meeting called to order at 5:00PM.

1. **Minutes:** Minutes from May 18 meeting approved.
2. **Visit from Joe Palange** (Business Development Manager for the Energy Services Division of Commonwealth Electric) as part of continued discussion on two topics:
 - a. program with National Grid to encourage buildout of EV charging stations.
 - b. new energy audits for lighting in Dunphy School and other town buildings.

Piermarini explained that the Committee wishes to update energy audits of our municipal buildings, since our most recent audit was in 2009, and that we are also exploring EV charging stations in town.

Palange opened with a brief overview of Commonwealth Electric, explaining that they are an electrical contractor that works with a variety of energy projects (including solar installation and EV charging stations). His division (Energy Services), which is an ESCO certified preferred vendor for National Grid, provides calculations and estimates to National Grid related to energy savings, incentives, etc.

He then explained the audit process, which involves himself and other specialists (e.g. EV, mechanical). As part of the audit, they can identify causes of anomalously large energy usage, and can provide building-specific advice on the opportunities and incentives for improving energy efficiency. He can also provide advice and preliminary assessments for EV charger installation as part of the building audits, and, if there is continued interest, bring other engineers into the process in later stages.

Piermarini asked if Commonwealth Electric coordinates with DOER on Green Communities funding, and Palange replied that they do work with Green Communities (via Mark Rabinsky) and can help towns with proposals to secure grants. Commonwealth Electric can also “quarterback” proposals to Mass EV Incentive Program for partial coverage of costs for installation of EV charging stations (cf. DOER web site), particularly for municipal buildings that are ADA compliant, have sufficient parking and appropriate spots for stations, and have 24/7 (or at least 12 hour per day) access by the public. Guzowski raised question about whether installation of EV charging stations at municipal buildings amounts to a public subsidy of charging costs for private citizens, and Palange noted that there are many ways to structure payment for charger use: towns can break even or even make a profit, and can restrict use to municipal

employees. Palange offered to provide further information on options—including web-based scheduling of charger use—at the Committee’s request.

3. **Recruitment of New Members:** Continuation of discussion. Members will try to identify and reach out to potential candidates to bring the Committee back up to full strength.
4. **Updates**
 - a. **Municipal Building Power Aggregation:** Piermarini reported that Paul Schroeder from LPVEC is awaiting quotes relevant to rolling of municipal building energy supplies into existing aggregation contract with Colonial Power (which expires in 2022). Will discuss at next meeting if quotes are available.
 - b. **Small Business Outreach Effort:** Piermarini reported that he had touched base with Sam Maule (Director, Small Business Programs for Energy Source), and there has apparently been no response so far to Committee’s outreach to local businesses about energy efficiency opportunities.
5. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 20 at 5:00PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 PM.