

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
ENERGY COMMISSION
January 28, 2016
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

ROLL CALL: Present were Shana Potvin (Vice Chairman), Chris Bandazian, (Town Council), Melissa Stevens (Town Council Alternate), Andrew Gillis, and Kevin Flynn

Vice Chairman Potvin opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the commission members. Chairman Rob Grogan, School Committee member Bill Foote, and Sanyukta Bansal were absent.

Review of 2015 Annual Energy Commission Report DRAFT:
There was nothing available to report.

Town Projects:

a. Status of Library HVAC:

Councilor Bandazian stated everything that can be done on paper has been done. It is just waiting scheduling of work. It has been a mild winter but it probably won't be until closer to the spring. There will be a groundbreaking and we will let everyone know when it is.

b. Net metering cap updates:

Vice Chairman Potvin stated Senate Bill 333 is in Senate committee at this time. The bill increases the limit from 50 megawatts to 75 megawatts for the total amount of distributed energy, which is mostly solar. There is a battle going on over whether 75 is good enough; some people are calling for 100 and some are call to lift the limit completely. It is in the Senate calendar for the February 4th session. The bill is marked "Ought to Pass with Amendment" with the amendment being something about tariffs or writing more tariff rules. Hopefully it will get approved to the 75 megawatts and then keep battling for more in the future. The 75 should get us a couple more years. I'd like to note that it does leave the solar industry in a terrible spot.

c. Transfer Station Recycling #s:

Vice Chairman Potvin stated we have the spreadsheet showing the number. Single stream recycling went up to 15.38 in December over the 14.42 from last year and 13.7 from the year before. It is steadily increasing which is great. We are also seeing the same trend for scrap metal. The increased numbers seem to match with holiday waste. Councilor Bandazian stated we usually see improvement in the early part of year. Vice Chairman Potvin stated there are now bins at transfer station for clothing and other things that can be recycled. Plus, there are also bins at the schools.

d. School solar feasibility?

Vice Chairman Potvin stated Mr. Foote is not here to report on this.

Solar Tax Assessment Exemption Status:

Councilor Bandazian the Town Council had a lot of discussion last night, and we are back to the drawing board with Town Manager and assessor to make a proposal that conforms to that discussion. The proposal from staff was tax neutral at a \$10,000 cap with the thought that that be represented in kilowatts. My concern is to protect the people that we promised it to, those that participated in the Solar-up campaign. There are a few outliers, few big installations in the works, but it is a work in progress. One thing during the discussion was if there is cap, those over \$10,000 would be impacted but phase-in for residential over a period of 5 years. There are some other ideas going around. Vice Chairman Potvin asked does the Town Council make that decision? Councilor Bandazian replied yes.

Branding / Marketing and Town Website / Facebook Page Updates:

Vice Chairman Potvin stated I have posted several things, and I noticed that they are all being read. There are no other updates at this time.

Portfolio Manager:

Vice Chairman Potvin stated we had talked about tying this into the student reps. Mr. King's students could possibly learn how to do that. I'm not sure of any further information at this time. Councilor Bandazian stated the EPA is adding solid waste in this year, so maybe that could be plugged in as well. Once done we will have a uniform format and a benchmark with others. Vice Chairman Potvin stated it would interesting to see the dollar

School Projects:

a. School / PTG Outreach:

There was nothing available to report.

b. Student Reps:

There was nothing available to report.

HAREI Partnership & Events:

a. Planned Energy Raisers:

Mr. Gillis stated we had our end of the year wrap up in December. Because of the mild weather we were still installing into December. We have probably six or seven projects going into the spring, and we are pretty much at capacity. It would be good to see SB 333 pass for when the projects get started in the spring.

Bedford Green Business of the Month:

Vice Chairman Potvin stated there is nothing in the works for this. We reached out to a few businesses and we didn't hear back from any of them. If anyone here or in our television audience has any ideas, please reach out to the Energy Commission.

Old Business: None

Approval of Minutes:

There were no minutes available to approve.

New Business:

Vice Chairman Potvin stated a second island at the Isles of Shoals has been fit with solar panels.

Mr. Gillis stated we should be interested in thinking about the schools. I know their budget is separate from the Town for power, but they have giant flat roofs and a lot of land that could be used. Mr. Veno in Goffstown actually got pellet stoves in the Police and Fire Departments and they are saving money. He is trying to float a bond to buy solar panels and the money saved would be used to pay off the bonds. I know municipalities don't get the tax credit but towns and cities get very cheap rates to borrow money. I think that is something that people can look at. Vice Chairman Potvin stated Mr. Foote said that power cost amongst Bedford schools runs about \$350,000 a year and they would like to look at savings for that. Councilor Stevens stated I think they were talking about redoing the high school roof at some point and I think a decision could be made in conjunction with that.

Councilor Bandazian stated there is HB 1691 in the Legislature that would repeal the renewable portfolio standard effective in 2020. This would affect people who get subsidies for biomass.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. Mr. Gillis duly seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Valerie J. Emmons