

ECC Meeting 7/26/18  
MINUTES

Present: Doug Adams, Iris Bloom, Tom Konrad, Amy Moses, Eric Stewart  
& Melissa Everett (via skype)

**Community Choice Aggregation (Tom)**

Town Board held an information session on July 10. Tom Konrad and Glenn Weinberg of Joule Community Power (the leading CCA administrator in NYS) presented to the board. Both the Board and members of the public were very receptive, largely because a CCA would allow the town to greatly increase renewable energy usage while reducing volatility of energy bills and likely saving money through a negotiated power purchase in conjunction with other towns (Cold Spring, Beacon, Pok, Town of Ulster and others are likely participants) the purchase of community solar and community hydro credits.

The board will hold be a public hearing on Aug 21- 7pm

**100% RENEWABLES (Melissa & Tom):**

- Melissa is to contact Tom w/ Town electricity usage information.
  - Tom to check with Rich Parete to request billing/usage info from Central Hudson.
  - Melissa is getting maps from the County on possible solar sites.
  - Subcommittee on visiting sites: Melissa, Iris, Amy & Eric.
- Research on options and pathways - status report from Melissa Everett, Ph.D., Executive Director, Sustainable Hudson Valley

**Data collection underway**

- have vehicle inventory, have fuel efficiency data by year - make - model, need to sort and correlate (Melissa, Doug)
- working on building inventory (Nancy w help from Nick Hvozda @ Ulster Co)
- Will request aggregate electricity use from Central Hudson for High Falls & Stone Ridge when data becomes available for free, August 1; will estimate proportionally the additional use from tiny bits of Kingston and Hurley in Marbletown
- Ulster Co is developing GIS layers for us to view potential renewable energy sites based on a list we provided

Important near term step is site evaluation from a non-technical / political/ public opinion perspective, and along with this, informing the public about this initiative

- Community forum early October to show research on needs, sites, and pathways e.g. electrification, efficiency improvements
- Press release in meantime announcing project and emphasizing its role in guiding community choices and plans

Needs for full ECC brain power to review elements uncovered by subgroups and Melissa-Bernie:

- Review of aggregate demand and range of sites, when data is in - plan this for August ECC meeting 45 min
- Review of strategies for engaging the community in demand reduction, electrification e.g. heat pumps & EVs & deep efficiency measures - plan this for Sept mtg 45 min to an hour
- These 2 discussions will shape presentation & community discussion for October.

- Iris will work with Melissa to spearhead community meeting but should have a buddy or two.

Public outreach/education will be key to program success:

- October public forum (date TBA). Perhaps to include EV Charging Station event (charging station at town hall in August) as well as other presenters (TBA), refreshments and tabling.
- Press release to go out in September. Eric offered to assist with writing release.
- Tabling in September and/or October also discussed at other sites (locations TBA).
- Eric to contact RVBA about ECC presentation on CCA & 100% Renewables.
- ECC should approach Town Board with a proposed resolution on reaching 100% renewable goal

### **Streetlights**

6/9/18 - We are waiting on a revised proposal from CH to full conversion, reflecting some smaller sizes of street lights we have requested. Should be quick and cheap (a few thousand dollars) for full conversion.

6/6 - Have also asked about converting area lights at Tongore and Comm Ctr. No response as yet.

6/22 - CH says they will reposition the Kripplebush FD light to illuminate the parking lot within a week. We first requested this in November 2016.

7/18 - the proposal for conversion to LED was delayed because Tom sent CH a file with requested sizes that they were unable to read, and CH dropped the matter rather than asking for a file in a different format. Tom called CH and got this rectified; again waiting on revised proposal. Also prompted them to reposition the Kripplebush FD light (again).

A local resident complained about repositioning of light on Schoonmaker Road. Central Hudson has been sent the request.

**PLASTICS LAW (Iris):** More traction should be expected on banning plastic bags (following recent return to committee at UC Legislature) after a vote scheduled for August 14. Iris wrote a proposed law for Town of Woodstock banning plastic bags and cutlery. This is not finalized. Using Iris's work as a template, similar law could be present to Marbletown Board.

-Straw ban event at the Mountain Brauhaus in Gardiner was a big success. 30 ppl from 6 towns; positive press.

-New Paltz Climate Action Committee & Protecting Our Waters to honor Last Bite in High Falls in August for their efforts. Date tentatively scheduled for 8/28.

### **OTHER**

Iris noted that temperature in building is currently set at 68. Eric to mention this to Rich/Steve Christiana (building superintendent).

### **Community Center Charging Station**

Have screen to replace old one. Need to do this so we can log in to station and get ID to connect to the network.

Parking space is complete, needs to be lined.

Need to order sign giving credit to DEC for funding; should probably include language for EV station etiquette as well.

### **Community Center Charging Station Grant**

Have submitted a request to revise grant to reflect what we have actually spent (by category) When revision is complete, will get revised grant document for Rich to sign, then we can apply for reimbursement.

### **Community Center Retrofit**

BuildingLogic does not have time to be lead contractor on the upgrade. I have contacted Malcarne Contracting and Energy Conservation Specialists(ECS).

Malcarne looked at the building and did their own blower door test (6/14)... determined that most of the air leakage is through the framing members (we did not know this before) I'm waiting on a proposal from Malcarne.

BuildingLogic also recommended talking to Integral Building. Integral Building says this is not the sort of thing they do.

Obtained data used by BL in their audit, and provided to ECS and Malcarne. ECS would like to do spray foam; Malcarne is working on a proposal for the whole thing.

Malcarne found a flaw in BL's analysis; calculated heat leakage was in excess of the boiler's ability supply energy. Have not pinpointed the flaw, but know the numbers are wrong.

Obtained a quote from Dandelion for a geothermal system at the CC. Probably oversized, due to the above flaw. Dandelion also commented that the heat losses were likely overstated.

### **Marbletown Old Town Hall**

Waiting for results from energy audit on Apr 27th by ECS

### **Highway Department Lighting Retrofit**

Still incomplete. We have contacted Energy Conservation Specialists to see if they want to finish the job and apply for the incentive money for us. While we wait, utility bills show that since the retrofit, Highway electricity usage has fallen 5,282 kWh (21%) over 7 months compared to the average usage during the same months 12 and 24 months earlier, while peak

load has fallen by 0.5kW/month (4%), for a total savings of \$2.245. Because last winter was significantly colder than the previous two, it is quite likely that the savings from the lighting retrofit are significantly understated due to increased use of electricity to run the boiler and other heating related uses, as well as increased activity at the highway department due to more snow plowing. Tom Konrad estimated annual savings of \$4,608/year in his September 2017 presentation to the board on the proposal. Adjusted for weather, this seems conservative compared to the actual savings. At this rate, the retrofit should pay for itself in 3 years.

#### **Rondout Watershed Alliance**

Eric and Tom have been attending meetings trying to revitalize the Rondout Watershed Alliance. Most recent 7/25. Working on a "trees for tribes" event.

Also considering putting together a trifold brochure that highlights interesting environment about the Rondout. May look for a small grant for this.

#### **DEC Identifying Habitats training**

Tom attended a training to identify habitats at the Norrie Pt environmental center on July 21.

#### **Fire Training Center**

Town meeting on the 25th had ten people speak regarding the FTC with three in favor and seven against.

**Ulster County BYOB law** - UC Legislature will discuss in August. Heidi Haynes (who supports) believes it has a good chance of passing.

**State Pharma Take Back** - This is now law.

**Grants:** Marbletown has hired a contractor to for grants; looking for ideas/opportunities that we might want to apply for.