

Guilford Energy Committee Meeting Notes – 3/12/2020

Members present: Nancy, Ann, Gary

Call to order: 5:44 p.m.

Brief check-in confirming that the Committee had no presence at the 3/3 Town Meeting

Solar installation mapping (Gary)

- will discuss at next meeting to reconfirm all information deemed useful to include in this map of Guilford installations.

Climate Action Film Festival (Nancy)

- Main contact (Jake Elliot) of Suncommon has been difficult to reach in order to confirm process of making some form of the film festival available to us.
- Nancy will try to contact a different Suncommon person in the hopes of getting some response
- No rush to establish a schedule for a potential Guilford event for at least a month or two due to COVID-19
- Nancy will provide update at April Committee meeting.

Consideration of establishing a community solar installation in Guilford (Nancy)

- Intention is to find suitable property in Guilford for a large-scale solar PV installation open to all Guilford residents and businesses to buy into
- Is there any state or federal money or grants, or loan programs, available to support this effort?
- VSECU loan model for energy efficiency upgrades (demand-side reduction) was mentioned; not sure if this type of loan is available for solar PV (new, supply-side energy source)
- This project would be developed to explicitly offset the energy and associated costs to Guilford residents and businesses. Not open to non-Guilford entities (e.g, ski areas, etc.)
- Nancy has noticed several, under or non-utilized fields or areas in Guilford that may be appropriate for solar development (non-AG land, non-wetlands protected zones)
- Nancy will begin to research process of developing community solar. Will contact Dan Ingold and Ralph Meima.

Connecting with other state groups or agencies focused on promoting energy issues, self-sufficiency

- Gary will contact the Windham Regional Commission to make sure we're on their radar, and to learn of other agencies or groups in Vermont that we should connect with.
- Ann will work to connect us with VECAN (Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network) and its resources and activities.

Next Meeting: April 23rd, 5:30, Town Office