NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Ashby ~ Pepperell ~ Townsend, Massachusetts
Photovoltaic Subcommittee
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 15, 2017

PRESENT

Chairperson Randee Rusch
William Hackler ~ Left at 9:00
Heide Messing
Roland Nutter ~ Left at 9:30

ALSO PRESENT
Matt Shortsleeve, Solect Energy

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 7:40 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was made by Heidi Messing and seconded by Roland Nutter to approve the July 26, 2017 minutes.
Vote: Unanimously passed

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION
Mrs. Rusch introduced Mr. Shortsleeve to the committee; she reviewed the goals of this committee and explained that the committee is researching and considering each school building and the ability for any type of solar for them. Once we have obtained all of the content/data information, the subcommittee will make recommendations to the full school committee.

Mrs. Messing spoke with Mr. Hills, and she will be going to each school to obtain copies of the as-built plans:

- Electrical Plan
- Roof Surface Plans
  - Roof Material
  - Roof Age
  - Roof Warranty
- Structural drawings of the roof

Solar photovoltaic (PV) system is a significant upfront investment. If you decide not to purchase your solar PV system, solar financing options:

- Own ~ Purchase the PV system using capital, debt, tax incentives
- Lease ~ Massachusetts has created "bankable" financing models with the Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SREC and SREC II) programs
- Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) ~ A financial agreement with Solect/third-party under which Solect leases the roof space from the school, Solect owns and maintains the system, and sells the electricity generated back to the district at a reduced set rate over 20 years.

Net-metering is based on how much energy the solar panels produce and how much energy the district uses, the utility bills would be debited or credited.

Remote Net-metering relies on excess energy you produce and allows you to apply those credits to other facilities within the district. The Utilities are obligated to do the behind the scenes billing.

Solect would be responsible to work with all of the town boards on the permitting to install the PV system.

Mr. Shortsleeve explained that as new technology comes out, Solect would move customers to the new technology.

Solar batteries store the extra energy produced from the solar panels instead of sending the electricity back into the electric grid. This allows for the ability to use the electricity generated by the solar panels on a day to day basis, as you need more electricity than your panels are producing, it would use the solar energy that has been stored in the solar battery.

Mr. Shortsleeve has worked with schools to create a clean energy day which presents teachers with a number of educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

PowerOptions procures the most competitive energy contracts with leading energy suppliers, bringing value, and security to members through all of our energy platforms. As a nonprofit organization, we would have to become a member of PowerOptions at an annual membership fee of $1,600.00

Solect Energy is based in Hopkinton and provides end to end commercial scale PV PPAs, and owner financed projects, with capabilities including design, engineering, permitting, equipment procurement, installation, commissioning, utility interconnection, post-installation services, and project financing.

Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environment Affairs is switching to the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program. The regulations will be changing March 2018.

http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/renewable-energy/solar/rps-solar-carve-out-2/current-status-solar-carve-out-ii.html

The current solar program SREC2 is going to be replaced by SMART, which is estimated to have a 40% lower compensation value which is scheduled to launch in July 2018. Any systems need to be completed by March 31, 2018 to obtain current incentives.

http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/renewable-energy/solar/rps-solar-carve-out-2/current-status-solar-carve-out-ii.html

Mrs. Rusch advised that this will need to go before the full school committee as it will need their approval and vote. The committee did discuss solar years ago.

Information they will need:

- What are the economics
- What will the rate be, where are the savings, over how many years

- Make assumptions that prices will go up
- What happens at end of contract? Buy it out, take away at our expense, or upgrade.

Next Steps:
Heide Messing
- Obtain building information for AES, NMRHS, & SMS
  (HBMS, SECC, & VBES are participating in Accelerated Repair Project)
- Plan technical site visits and evaluate for "solar readiness" at NMRHS for next week

Randee Rusch
- Provide electric bills
- Plan technical site visits and evaluate for "solar readiness" at AES/SMS for next week

Matt Shortsleeve
- Develop system design and savings estimates to present at next meeting
- Provide a copy of a sample contract agreement to Mrs. Rusch
- Send a certified roof expert to inspect the roof, which will validate the existing roof warranty

FUTURE MEETING DATES
TBD ~ at Peter Fitzpatrick School

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Heidi Messing and seconded by Randee Rusch to adjourn the meeting.
Vote: Unanimously passed
The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.