

Minutes
Chester Clean Energy Team
February 1, 2024

Members: Pat Woomer, Sandy Prisloe, Rick Holloway (chair), Peter Harding, Ed Meehan, Dick Leighton, Patricia Bandzes (ex officio)

Guests: none

The E-Team meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm

1. Approval of minutes.

Minutes of the January 18th meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Lighting and EV Charging Stations

Sandy and Ed met with first selectman Cindy L yesterday to review the status of this project. They had decided to position the station in the grassy verge opposite the bus stop. A survey of the Water Steet lot by the town engineers to determine elevations was authorized and results will be available tomorrow. In any case, a modification of the state building code will be required for this location because of potential flooding. **Dick L** will submit required forms to the State Building Inspector. Approval may take 4-6 weeks. A discussion of the financing of this project followed; because of grants and rebates, this ends up being of low or no net cost to the Town.

To address the possibility that the modification may not be accepted, various alternative locations were discussed, including the Maple Street lot, the library parking lot and the proposed expansion of parking at the Fire Station. Sandy has discussed some of these with the DEEP to ensure that funding through them will not be affected.

3. Solar panels at Town Hall and the Town Garage

Rick will be meeting with a sales representative from Earthlight Technology within the next two weeks to review solar options for these two locations. The roof on the Town Hall is scheduled to be replaced in 2025.

4. Improving Energy Performance

Pat Bandzes reported that the selectmen have met with most of the owners of manufacturing plants in Chester. Many have reported problems with the reliability of electric power. The selectmen would like to have the **Energy Team** organize an information session for these businesses to learn about energy efficiency audits which can be arranged through Eversource. We will plan to have this occur this Spring.

5. Energy performance of the Meeting House

Sandy and Peter had met earlier this week with Steve Pytlik (DPW) to review energy considerations at the Meeting House. Peter distributed a

summary of this review. Consumption of both oil and electricity have been steadily declining since 2010. Problems still remain; because it is an old building there are many changes which would be difficult to realize, e.g. sealing the roof, upgrading windows, etc. Furthermore, certain groups using the building have been careless about resetting thermostats and limiting use of stage lighting. Discussion of how the spotlights for the stage can have a huge effect on the cost of electricity because of the way demand charges are calculated. **Rick** will check to see what Deep River did about lighting when they restored the theater in their Town Hall.

The next meeting of the Energy Team will be on March 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted.
Rick Holloway