

## **Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF)**

*(The charge from the Select Board: Explore renewable energy as an alternative to, or in tandem with, conventional energy to benefit town facilities, infrastructure or otherwise benefit the community as whole; to evaluate renewable energy applications, options and costs; to identify feasible projects and associated costs; and to report to the Town Manager and Select Board your findings and recommendations for funding and implementation.)*

### Minutes of the meeting of October 29, 2007

Members present: John Hoagland, Dick Kmetz, Jerry Nolet, and Roger Wojcik

Members Absent: Dean Kavanagh, Paul Santaniello

Invited Guests: Jeff Clearwater, Village Power Design, Shutsbury, MA; Thom Martens, Town Engineer

In the Gallery: No one

The meeting was called to order at about 11AM.

#### New Business:

Jeff Clearwater spoke at length about his business experience in the design, funding and installation of solar/PV systems. Among his comments: More grants are available for PV systems than for hot water systems. More grants are available for schools versus other public buildings. Jeff has a partner whose business is solar/hot water systems. The useful life of a hot water system is about 25 years; the useful life of a solar/PV system is about 50 years (25 year warranties are available on the panels and 10 year warranties on the inverter). Jeff has about 40 installations of experience totaling about 500kw (his portfolio suggests mostly home size units). He employs four people.

Task Force thinking has been to develop a proposed solar/PV system based on filling one of the three Glenbrook Middle School roofs with PV panels. Roof size is about 75' by 95'. Such a unit could generate about 75kw at best, realistically about 60kw. Installed cost would be about 7\$/watt. Should these panels generate more electricity than needed at the time of generation, WMECO allows reverse electricity flow of up to 60kw of power per meter, with flowback credits able to offset the load up to the maximum purchased per month. No flow forward of electricity credits.

A discussion of the sources and types of grant money for solar/PV systems followed.

From the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, through its SRI branch, rebates of 3 to 5\$/watt are automatic for units of under 10kw in size....six weeks processing time from date of application.

For units greater than 10kw size LORI grants are available... given twice a year...three months processing time.

Positive factors to be considered in the applications... installation in a public building; application to be educational in nature; equipment manufactured in Massachusetts.

Operating units are given renewable energy credits which have intrinsic value.

Based on discussion of the cost of solar/PV systems and the desire to set up a demonstration system in the town, the Task Force ask Jeff to propose a 9.8kw system for the Glenbrook school roof and Jeff agreed to develop this proposal.

The minutes of the October 16 meeting were approved as written.

The Task Force agreed to invite Accuaire to our next meeting to discuss a proposed solar/PV system for Glenbrook.

The Task Force agreed that its next meeting date will be set to match the availability of Accuaire, tentatively Friday, November 16, 2007, at 11AM.

The meeting adjourned about 12:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Roger Wojcik.