

## **Planning Commission Workshop on Renewable Energy Development – October 5, 2017**

**In attendance:** Philip Mosenthal, Charles Webber, Margi Gregory, John Miccen, Susan Thompson, Richard Faesy, Tom Perry, Jeffrey Keeney, Alan Quitner, Jim Geier, Norman Cota, Dennis Casey, Dan Nugent, Dan Harris, Hugh Johnson, Jeff Dunham, Dan Baker, Dave Wetmore, Brandy Saxton, Cecilia Elwert, Mary O'Brien

Dennis welcomed all who were in attendance and turned the workshop over to Brandy.

Brandy reviewed Town Plan requirements incorporating Energy Plan. Looked at existing Town Plan, its limits of the ability of community to direct their own future regarding all their energy needs. History and present permit application process section 248 – results in a CPG.

Act 174 acknowledges that towns are limited in their ability to participate in CPG process – act 174 was adopted in 2016. To increase in part to allow the amount of weight the Town has in the process and requires a detailed energy plan from the Town.

### **Question # 1 – due process -> substantial deference**

- Electricity consumption – Greater than average in Starksboro
- Transportation – 736,000 gal/year –  $\Delta$  to Electric vehicles would require 6400 mW/year
- Heating – Starksboro heating is higher than average. – based on census data/estimates of square footage.
- Pie Chart Slide – Largest piece is Transportation.

**Siting Guidelines** – Town Plan needs to be clear and specific as to where projects should or shouldn't be sited. Rules need to be consistent. Determining factors need to be measured and priorities need to be well documented. Capacity of infrastructure is a measure that the PUC would look at.

Residential/Homeowner – 15 KW or less

Community Size – 15 KW – 500 KW – 90 houses (requires good robust grid infrastructure)

Utility Size – up to 2.2 mW – 400 homes (requires good robust grid infrastructure)

Conservation is considered but overall power consumption is projected to increase

Siting Requirement – Rooftop/Brownfield, gravel pits – solar

**Question** – Should Starksboro attempt to be energy self-sufficient? Energy exporter?

### **Priorities**

- Residential < 15 KW
- Community < 500 KW
- Need to be well sited and screened
- Industrial/Utility – not much support
- Solar seems to be preferred
- Core of FC/needs to remain intact – development severely limited now per zoning
- Need to encourage individual solar installations

- Grid needs major upgrade – protect agricultural/prime agricultural/statewide important soils
- Wind is significantly more expensive to develop
- Small scale wind is not competitive
- Must look at conservation – heat pumps/insulating, etc.
- Solar plus batteries would limit need for industrial wind
- Electricity is just a small piece. Transportation is the elephant in the room.
- Public transportation??

**Wrap up**

- First revised draft of Plan – soon
- Maybe follow-up forum needed

Motion to approve - 1st -Jeff Keeney - 2nd - Daniel Nugent - Approved (4) - Abstain - Kelly Norris  
December 7, 2017

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_