**Duxbury, MA Alternative Energy Committee**

**Meeting Minutes for November 28, 2023**

Members attending: Wendell Cerne, Glenn Carle, Jessica Williams, Lew Segal, Matt Koenig, Adam Earle, Bernie Gardner, Deborah Donovan

Guests attending: John Barrett and Mark Robinson of Duxbury, Mike Spiro of NexAmp

* **Vote on meeting minutes from October 24, 2023**
  + The committee reviewed the draft minutes, and suggested minor, non-substantive changes. Motion to approve the minutes as amended passed unanimously.
* **Status of Green Municipal Aggregation Initiative**
  + The comment period for the proposed plan closed on November 24, 2023. One supportive comment was received.
  + The next step is a vote by the Select Board (meeting date TBD). WC will let members know when that is taking place, the group agreed it would be helpful to attend.
  + Following SB approval, the plan will be filed at the Department of Public Utilities where that step in the review and approval process will begin.
  + In advance of finalizing what products will be offered, the AEC will have a discussion about various approaches to identifying renewable attributes for products that exceed the floor renewable content required by the RPS. DD will provide background and lead the discussion.
* **Residential battery-storage to create a virtual power plant (VPP): presentation by Mike Spiro, NexAmp**
  + MS presented a slide deck that provided background on NexAmp’s approach to developing VPPs using residential battery storage. Presentation included:
    - benefits to grid operations through peak shaving, avoided distribution system expansion, improved reliability.
    - comparison to other forms residential backup technologies for replacement electricity during power outages.
    - NexAmp rolled out a demonstration pilot program in Newburyport and is looking for other towns to replicate it.
    - Duxbury is a good candidate because there are frequent power outages.
    - could be ready to start doing rollout activities such as education and marketing in early 2024.
    - NexAmp earns revenue streams through the regional wholesale electricity market (Forward Capacity Market) and state climate policies (Clean Peak Standard) that it uses to subsidize the costs of the residential equipment.
    - In Nbpt, NexAmp had advance discussions with Electrical Inspectors and Fire Department personnel about installation and fire safety measures.
    - The opportunity for also considering large scale batteries at appropriate sites elsewhere in town exists.
  + AEC discussion
    - Fits in with longer term goals likely to be included in Climate Action Plan to be developed; complements other efforts toward reducing fossil fuel use, electrification (solar, heat pumps, EVs), noise pollution, exhaust, etc.
    - AEC should connect with Planning Board to seek clarity about by-laws, codes.
    - Next step – reach out to counterparts in Nbpt. Further discussion at next meeting about how to best move forward
* Vote on AEC Candidate
  + Two vacancies were announced: Elika Dadsetan-Foley and Susan Fontaine. It was agreed that Mark Robinson’s would be considered when the next vacancy came open.
  + It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to appoint Mark Robinson to the AEC
  + Lew Segall noted Susan Fontaine’s years of service; she was instrumental in Duxbury acquiring Green Community designation, for example, and was part of every major AEC initiative.
* Climate Action Plan
  + The AEC will begin the process of developing a plan. The first step is to update the town’s 2019 emission inventory using the MAPC methodology.
  + AEC members will take on the task of collecting data for the buildings, transportation and waste sectors with the goal of having those developed by the January meeting.
  + Please contact WC about interest and availability to assist with this task.
* Next meeting is December 19th. AEC members should let WC know if the timing of this meeting needs to be adjusted with the coming holidays.
* The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9pm

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Donovan