

Enhanced Energy Planning Sub-Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 12, 2018  
4:30 to 6:00 Thetford Town Hall

Present: Alice Stewart, Phebe McCosker, Sue Fritz  
Regrets: Li Shen

We reviewed of Kimberly's responses to our questions from our last meeting.

New Recommendations

1) We should be encouraging local food production in town to save food miles. Town's people need the opportunity to buy local produce in town.

We will ask TRORC to be consistent in using both MWs and MWhs in all tables.

We continued the discussion of the siting. Sue brought us recommendations from the Conservation Commission. We finished the meeting with the following list.

Preferred

- 1) Rooftop
- 2) Ground mounted systems not visible from class 3 roads and bigger, or in view sheds (including mines, landfills, brownfields, on reclaimed quarries or gravel pits, on a site that was previously covered by a structure or impervious cover).
- 3) Currently has a large array... 100kW or larger
- 4) Parking lots, paved or gravel – a canopy array that is architecturally in keeping with area
- 5) Additionally, the Town, by joint letter of the Planning Commission (with consultation with the Conservation Committee) and select board, may designate a site as preferred if it is not visible in the growing season from town or state highways, is not actively in agriculture, and is not part of a priority or high priority forest block or habitat connector.

Unsuitable

- 1) Highest priority forest blocks (How is TRORC looking at keeping these connected from town to town? Will we be given guidance on this?)
- 2) Undeveloped prime ag soils
- 3) FEMA Floodways – Be aware that these maps are not current to climate change
- 4) Fed/State/local protected lands Including but limited to Hughs/ Post Mills Natural Area/Taylor Flood Plain
- 5) Vernal pools
- 6) Class 1 and 2 wetlands
- 7) State-significant Natural Communities and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species.

Constrained can be developed under certain conditions

We have a lot of questions here. It seems that prime agricultural lands can be used for a solar array if the farmer is using 51% of the electricity produced. We also read that if the "development" is less than 1 acre, it doesn't count as a "development." We need to get clear on existing State law.

We discussed a number of ways that that we might create limits to arrays, or size of arrays, on prime ag. Here are some thoughts we need to develop.

What can we do about the size of the array

Convert to grazing or dual purpose with array above

OK with a ballast system or other system that does not disturb the prime ag soil.

HOMEWORK

Check our lists of Preferred, Unsuitable and Constrained against:

April 11 minutes

The Energy Planning Standards: 12B-E

And Braintree's work

Next Meeting: July 19, 2018, 4:30-6 Town Hall