

Bolton Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019
Bolton Town Office

Members present: Juliette Juillerat, Henry Corse, Peter Schoen, Lexie Haselton

Members absent: None

Also present: Lindsey DesLauriers (Bolton Valley), Derek Moretz (Encore Renewable Energy) and Amy Ludwin (Bolton Conservation Commission)

Clerk: Carol Devlin

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:03p.m. by Juliette Juillerat.
2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:**
Additions:
 - The ERC will be meeting in February to regroup and discuss the possibility of a 2020 Community Fair. The Energy Committee are invited to attend to give their input on this year's fair and to discuss whether they'd be interested in another Energy Fair.Deletions: none.
3. **Public Comment:** none.
4. **Recurring Business:** Approve October 16, 2019 minutes. Juliette Juillerat made the motion "to approve the October 16, 2019 meeting minutes as presented." Henry Corse seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (4-0).
5. **RT. 2 Solar Project (Encore Renewable Energy in Partnership with BVR, LLC):**
Lindsey DesLauriers provided the context of the proposed project. BVR is committed to limiting its carbon footprint as ski resorts use a lot of energy. They have already made a variety of energy-related changes. They are interested in developing renewable sources of energy and have talked with a number of solar companies and considered several options. They have decided to go with Encore Renewable Energy to develop a 500 kilowatt (the maximum allowed) array on approximately 3 acres of land on a parcel on Rt. 2 which is owned by the DesLauriers family (Eastcote Holdings), not the resort (BVR, LLC).

Derek Marez from Encore Renewable Energy presented a summary of the proposal. It is a new metering array which is capped at 500 kilowatts by the state. There would be tax benefits to the town (\$4,000 the first year with an increased amount over the time of the project) plus education tax benefits. The project would also save money for the resort. The proposal is in the early stages and has a long way to go: the EC will need to make a recommendation to the Select Board and/or the Planning Commission; then, it will go to the CCRPC and the state. The proposal will need to go through all of the state evaluation including acoustic, aesthetics, archeological and environmental considerations. They are requesting that the town grant "preferred site" status. The project will support town aims to increase renewable energy.

Discussion included:

- Does preferred status apply to the whole parcel or just the project site? Derek explained that the town could put conditions/limitations on their designation of preferred status. E.g., preferred site for “up to 500 kw” or conditions from other town boards.
- What does the designation mean? Town support of renewable energy and the project and its impact.
- Why is the proposed array on the edge of the parcel? Several constraints limit possible sites for the array: floodplain/wetlands, a neighboring resident uses part of the parcel for their horses, road setback, property setbacks and location for a possible interchange off of I-89.
- Amy Ludwin stated that in general the BCC was approved of the project and preferred status but conditionally and not for the whole parcel.
- Is preferred status for solar or all types of renewable? Encore is only interested in a solar project.
- Will there be battery storage? None planned at this time. There aren’t incentives for it.
- Will it feed into the grid? It will be connected to the grid and credits will be given to BVR.
- 500 kw will triple Bolton’s production of renewable energy.
- Concern re: the array becoming like the huge one near I-89 in the Sharon/Royalton area. That one is over 2,000 kw. Bolton’s is a net metered array capped at 500 kw. Although it will still be seen, views will be protected and there will be screening.
- BVR won’t own the array. They would have an agreement with Encore and Green Mountain Power. Encore would own the equipment and lease the land.
- Decommissioning would be part of the PUC approval and the lease.
- There was a short discussion on whether there would be local opposition to the project.
- The new Energy Plan will eventually be annexed to the Town Plan and includes constraints, including steep slopes.
- Derek reviewed the timeline: permitting process in the winter and spring; build next summer.

Juliette Juillerat made the motion “to recommend to the Select Board to designate the parcel as a preferred site.” Henry Corse seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (4-0).

6. **Solar RFI (Submission Date Extension and Vendor Outreach):**

Juliette Juillerat explained that they had not received any responses to the RFI. She therefore made the motion “to extend the end date of the RFI to the end of February 2020 and send it directly to solar developers.” Lexie Haselton seconded. All were in favor and the motion passes (4-0). Juliette Juillerat will develop a list of solar developers and reach out to the directly.

7. 2020 (Meeting Schedule, Priority Projects, Fire Station Assessment Action):

Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 6:30.

Projects: Future projects for consideration include:

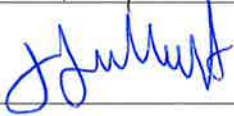
- Getting the town office and fire station off of fossil fuels.
- Questions and feedback regarding the proposed solar field on the DesLauriers' Route 2 parcel.
- Establishing a park and ride.

8. **Closing:** Juliette Juillerat made the motion "to close the meeting." Lexi Haselton seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (4-0) at 7:16 p.m.

Attest: Carol Devlin, acting clerk

Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Energy Committee on:

1/29/2020



Juliette Juillerat, Chair