

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Environmental Committee**  
**Town Hall Council Chambers**  
**April 14, 2014, Monday**

Present: Brian McDonald, Chair  
Robert Conlon, Vice Chair  
Jane Hackett, Councilor  
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor  
Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

**Discussion of the National Grid Solar Power Pilot Program - Presentation by Clean Power LLC**

Chair McDonald reported that the matter was referred to the Environmental Committee by the Town Council on March 24, 2014. He introduced Dave Fenton of Clean Power LLC. Mr. Fenton reported many towns are taking advantage of solar power by installing panel systems in unused areas; the town of Plymouth, in partnership with Clean Power, installed a solar system at the site of a capped landfill that generates enough power to run 75% of its school system.

In 2008 the government enacted the "Clean Power Act" and solar energy systems have been highly successful where deployed. Mr. Fenton reviewed that passive systems are installed on otherwise compromised land, such as landfills and can provide benefits to the host community such as a ground lease revenue stream and discounted energy costs. Weymouth is one of twenty communities preselected as preferable sites by National Grid. A third party developer will build and National Grid will be a tenant on the property. The former incinerator landfill site, 92 Wharf Street in North Weymouth, has been identified as a preferred site. The incinerator was in use from 1949-2007, when it was capped. The site is 11 acres but due to its geometry; location of Back River and bisected by right of way, it appears that 4-5 acres are usable for this purpose, and could provide for 1MW of solar power. Mr. Fenton had briefly discussed feasibility with the director of Planning and would like to further review the site with engineers to find the appropriate location and begin the process.

If the location is chosen, local permitting and interconnection process with National Grid has to be completed before construction can start, but a decision must be made by May 8, 2014. Mr. Fenton provided the committee with the handout National Grid provided to the bidders. The process is a twenty-year commitment and at the end of the period the utility will remove the equipment. At this time, the company is looking for approval to review the site further to determine if the conditions are usable.

Chairman McDonald asked if the lease agreement could include provision of a buffer between the equipment and nearby homes. Mr. Fenton responded that from the initial review it would appear the equipment would be a considerable distance from the residences and it shouldn't impact them. Chairman McDonald noted he looks forward to the opportunity to bring a clean energy project to Weymouth. These sites are intended to be laboratories and were chosen for study. Landfill sites are preferred.

Councilor DiFazio asked if the other sites in other preferred sites are located near residential neighborhoods. Mr. Fenton responded that they are usually in commercial or industrial areas.

A motion was made by Councilor DiFazio to support the proposal by Clean Power LLC, and recommend to the Mayor to engage the process and allow representatives from Clean Power LLC permission to walk the property with their engineer to put a proposal together and was seconded by Vice Chairman Conlon. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Adjournment**

At 7:30 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by to adjourn the meeting by Councilor Hackett and was seconded by Vice Chairman Conlon. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chairman McDonald

Voted unanimously on 5 May 2014