

# Electric Light Subcommittee

6/13/18  
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Utilities Department Conference Room  
272 High Street  
Ipswich, MA

Type of meeting: Monthly Meeting, Open Session

Attendees: Ed Rauscher, William Whitmore, Michael Schaaf, Jon Blair (Operations Manager), Whitney Hatch, Ann Reynolds, and The Minutes Secretary, Julie Cleary was present.

## Agenda

Citizens' Queries	Chair	5
Approval of Minutes	Chair	5
Green Communities Discussion	Michael Schaaf	25
Landfill Solar Array Discussion	Jon Blair	20
Manager's Update	Jon Blair	50
Other Business		

## Additional Information

Ed Rauscher called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Ann Reynolds arrived at 7:05pm.

### Handouts:

**\*Packet for 6/13/18 including detailed agenda and previous meeting minutes from 4/11/18, Green communities Fact Sheet, Landfill Map, Town Farm land fill analysis Report.**

**Abbreviations Used :** ELD= Electric Light Department MLP= Municipal Light Plant GHG= Greenhouse Gas MMWEC= MA Municipal Whole Sale Electric Company KWH=kilowatt hour MW=megawatts PPA=Purchase Power Agreements REC= Renewable Energy Credit SREC= Solar Renewable Energy Credit

<b>Citizens' Queries</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>5</b>
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There were no citizen queries

<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>5</b>
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Discussion: Whitney moved to accept the minutes from 4/11/18, Will seconded and the vote carried unanimously.

Green Communities Discussion	Michael Schaaf	25
<p>Discussion: Michael began by explaining the history of the Green Communities Program and the reasons why Ipswich has not become a Green Community in the past.</p>		
<p>Michael reviewed the facts on the Green Communities Program, and who is currently participating. 210 localities are certified which comprises about 70% of the state population. Michael discussed what is required of a MLP community in order to participate. 1. The IELD would need to levy a monthly customer charge of \$0.0005/kWh of electricity consumed. 2. The revenue generated by this charge is remitted to the Renewable Energy Trust Fund, managed by the MA Clean Energy Center. 3. This agreement cannot be canceled under current rules. Once we join, we are in it for life.</p>		
<p>Michael also reviewed the costs for Ipswich to participate which would be about \$55,000 a year (town wide) and based on the average monthly consumption of electricity per household (670kWh) the cost per household would be \$0.34 or \$4.00 per year. The benefits in participation were also discussed by Michael such as the designation grant, which is estimated to be about \$146,000 in the first year, and the ability to apply for grants on an as needed basis. Ed had a question on how funds can be used and Michael clarified. In summary Michael feels that this is a well-established program that allows us to have broader funding and various initiatives can be cumulative. Jon expressed reservations on participating and concerns about the costs to the ELD. He noted that most of the surrounding municipalities are not participating. Ed had questions on the zoning change and approval from the ELD, he also wondered if there should be a way to share the burden of the cost. Whitney had a question on legislation and if there was a way to alleviate the costs to the ELD. Jon said he would be less leery if there was a knowledgeable person in charge of overseeing the funds and grants and planning long term.</p>		
<p>Jon had a question on the make-up of these grants and whether we have to match it. William had a question on what we get every year from the sustainability fund and Michael answered him. Ed questioned if there was a report to keep track of the details of financing.</p>		
<p>Conclusions: All questions raised should be fleshed out and discussed at next month's meeting. Michael will get answers to some of these questions and reach out to the Rep from Green Communities.</p>		
Land Fill Solar Array Discussion	Jon Blair	20
<p>Handout- Town Farm Rd. Landfill analysis Report</p>		
<p>Discussion: Jon summarized the analysis report and the status of capping the landfill and placing a solar field there. Michael discussed the history of the landfill and what previous issues came up with pursuing approval from the DEP to cap it. Discussions need to be had on closing the permit and what the potential costs and issues will arise when this permit is obtained. However both Jon and Michael discussed this issue with the Town Manager and he feels we have a responsibility to properly cap it. Will had question on how much power a solar array can generate. Jon said a four acre solar array estimates about 1 ½ MW. Ann questioned the risk of flooding at the site and there was a discussion of the tides. Flooding does not appear to be an issue with or without solar field. Jon says the preliminary analysis is favorable for this type of development.</p>		
<p>Conclusions: Ed motioned to endorse exploring the development of a solar field at the Town Farm Rd landfill. The ELD will support a solar field however the town will need to clarify the ability to develop at this site and notify us of this status. Will seconded this motion. Vote was carried unanimously.</p>		

<b>Managers Update</b>	<b>Jon Blair</b>	<b>50</b>
<p>Discussion: Jon went over what is in the DPU report. It needs to be formally signed and approved by the commissioners. Ray will bring the report to the next Electric Subcommittee meeting to review with the members. Jon went over OPEB and his discussion with Sarah Johnson. Sarah has kept accurate records on where we should stand and Jon went over the budget plan for year 1 and year 2.</p>		
<p>Capital Concerns- Jon discussed the damage to the circuit breaker in our substation. Allocations- Jon went over the justification issues with town hall and utilities funding. Fiscal 20 is being discussed, and Jon and Vicki have come up with a proposal. They plan on meeting with the Town Manager to formalize.</p>		
<p>Whitney went over the Distributed battery pilot program, how it works, what the benefits are and how it could be implemented. Jon discussed the possibility of advertising for participants to see if anyone is interested in purchasing the battery. Michael had a question on what we can learn from this, William noted we could promote this as an educational outreach. Ann questioned if the ELD can have leasing agreements with customers. Jon stated that you can lease the equipment but you cannot lease the space.</p>		
<p>Staff Changes- A new lineman was hired and a new system integrator was also hired.</p>		
<p>Sustainability- NE Biolabs went live with their solar array. Dylan Lewellyn was awarded the COTY award at MEAM last month. A volunteer was hired for eight weeks and will work on Greenhouse gas emissions. We have hired a PR firm to do more regular press releases, they will also publish the results from the customer survey. Dylan, Tony, and Jon sat down to see what we can do for the town. A report will be generated to give input and advice on town projects. Jon discussed the Peak Power Pledge contest.</p>		
<p>Long Range agenda – Jon reviewed the handout in the agenda.</p>		
<p>Conclusions: Michael suggested we revisit the sustainability fund and Jon felt that the annual review would be a good time to do that. William noted that Dylan could discuss what green projects we’re already doing at the July meeting.</p>		
<b>Other Business</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>10</b>
<p>Discussion: Jon discussed Berkshire Wind and the Munis upgrade.</p>		
<p>Ed motioned to adjourn at 9:11pm, William seconded and the vote carried unanimously.</p>		