

**Town Of Truro
Energy Committee Minutes**

May 16, 2024

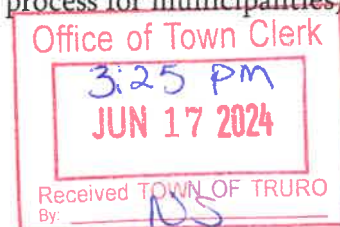
Present: Chair Brian Boyle, Vice-chair Bob Higgins-Steele, members Lindsay Wilson, Harry Irwin Robert Weinstein, SB liaison

Guests: Zach Holt – PowerOptions, Allen Gilles - Solectenergy

Public Comment - None

PowerOptions Presentation - by Zack Holt from PowerOptions and Alan Giles from Solectenergy (the RFP award winner for solar installation for PowerOptions)

- **Tax Benefits** - US Treasury Guidelines issued on the Energy Tax Credits plus adders. One adder states that the Energy Community for towns that are within the vicinity of an oil or coal fired plant would qualify for an automatic additional 10% Investment Tax Credit (ITC). The Sandwich power plant falls into this program. This means that all Cape Towns for 2023 & 2024 would get a 40% ITC. That credit could apply to either town ownership of the solar field or to the Power Purchase agreement with Select Energy.
- **Central School Project** - The proposal for the Central School solar array was changed - the canopy in the parking area was eliminated because it was too small to be cost-effective. It was replaced with an increase of solar panels to the existing roof top array. Structure of the roof to be evaluated. The condition and age of the flat (rubber) and pitched roofs (shingles) to be evaluated. PowerOptions will issue the proposal revised roof top solar system that would be net positive (producing more electricity than the school currently uses). The panels on the sloped asphalt shingles roof produce more electricity per panel than the panels on the flat roof. Value engineering would allow us to eliminate some panels on the flat roof (lowering cost) while still remaining net neutral.
- **Bill Credits (back credits)** - Truro has bill credits worth over \$100,000. Eversource is addressing this issue (shared by many other towns) . Changing the “Schedule Z” application would allow the town to relocate the credits from one invoice to another every month if desired. Another option would be for Eversource to buy back all the net metering credit at \$1 for \$1. Bill Credits can now be assigned out of area - across load zone and across utilities (as per DPU updated net metering credit process for municipalities).

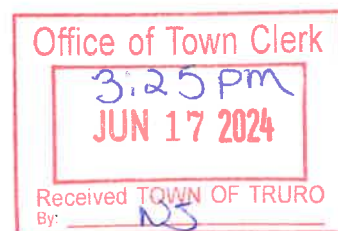


Zack at PowerOptions can help the town solve these problems. Credit can only go between municipalities. It is always best to connect the solar array behind the meter. It gives the town more flexibility in the future on how to use the energy or credits.

- **Own or Lease Solar Assets (purchase vs PPA)**- Alan thought the town could own the solar array without a bond to fund the upfront construction cost of \$3 million+/- . The 40% ITC turns into a Direct Pay Grant one year after the project is commissioned. Project cost will be amortized over 7 years at a fixed monthly rate for the town to pay that starts one month after the project is commissioned. PowerOptions can bring Bill Credit Clients to purchase the electricity from the landfill project directly. (Truro will sent monthly invoices to the purchasing municipality). After 7 years Truro only needs to pay insurance and maintenance on the solar array leaving Truro with a revenue stream for the balance of the life of the system.
- **RFP requirement for public procurement** - Energy Committee and PowerOptions (Walter Greg) will talk with the town regarding a need for an RFP for the solar panels (re MGL #164). PowerOptions usually performs the RFP for their members (municipalities or non profits).
- **Moving Forward** - PowerOptions can write a non-binding letter of intent. Solectenergy can start the engineering, which will take 18 months for approval and permits, with the signed letter of intent. Solectenergy is obligated to provide the town a 25 year financial statement - income vs expenses for both lease or purchase options. At the end of this process, Truro can move forward with a contract or decline. The town is under no obligation to proceed.
- **Purchase Solar Credits** - Brewster buying Truro credits with a Memorandum of understanding (MMU)
- **Truro Energy usage** - Truro current energy needs are approximately 27% for electricity and 73% for diesel, gasoline and propane. Truro is procuring electricity for 33% of their energy needs creating the 6% surplus.

Climate Leaders discussion - Application date for the town to become a Climate Leader has been moved to July 25th.

- Bob HS will contact the school board about the deadline. The Truro School District has to sign an agreement for 2050 Net Zero Commitment and Zero-Emission Vehicle First Policy.

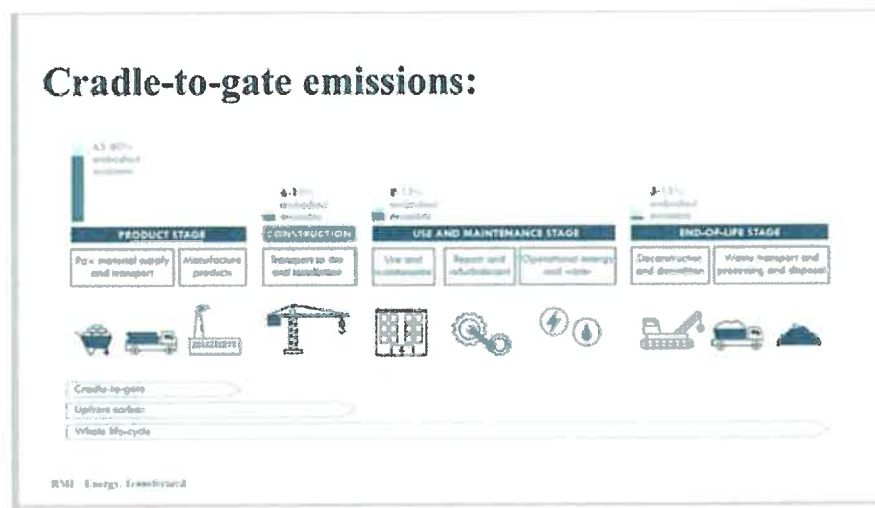


- The select board or town manager needs to replace Policy Memo #46 - Model Zero-Emission Vehicle First Policy with the existing Fuel Efficiency Policy
- Green Community Municipal Building Roadmap
- Submit the last 6 months of approved meeting notes

Discussion with Town Staff - None

Approval of minutes - from meeting dates 9.11.2023, 10.2.2023, 10.25.2023, 12.4.2023, 1.8.2024, 2.15.2024 & 3.25.2024. Unanimous vote to approve all.

DPW Ad Hoc Building Committee update - The committee agreed that embedded carbon from the whole life-cycle should be considered when designing the new DPW campus.



Decarbonization plan included funding for consultant like Building Science for peer review of the new DPW plans. - Lindsey to resend memo outlining this action.

Climate Action Committee update - None

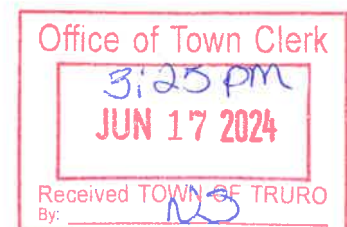
Large Projects updates - None

MVP Action Grant and Microgrids - None

Building Codes, Net Zero Goals - None

Next Meeting - June 6th tentative

Adjourned



Respectfully submitted by Harry Irwin

