

Minutes of the Monterey REWG 11/2/22

The Renewable Energy Working Group met on November 2, 2022, at Monterey Community Center, 468 Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245, and via Zoom.

Members Present in person: Peter Murkett, Rob Hoogs, John Prusinski

Members Present remotely via Zoom: Chris Aidun, Peter Grealish

Others present remotely via Zoom: Judy Eddy, grant writer

Others present in person: two guests: Nick Pachella, Kara Mead

Agenda:

Review META Grant application

UMass Extension update

Review/amend/approve minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Peter Murkett introduced Judy Eddy who we have hired (with the approval of the Select Board) to assist REWG with preparing and submitting a grant application under the DOER's Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) program to request \$15,000 for assistance with development of a Community Shared Solar project.

Peter reported that he has spoken with several solar installation companies about the potential issues related to large scale solar installation in Monterey. The federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) apparently includes provision for a 30% federal credit for municipality-related solar installations. Further research will be needed by our eventual consultant to help with these issues.

Peter left the meeting about 6:00 p.m. in order to attend the Select Board's meeting regarding REWG's application for a grant under ARPA to pay for a separate consultant. Rob was delegated to act as chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Judy Eddy and REWG members paged through the META grant application and discussed the application requirements, pros and cons of the different grant opportunities for Community Shared Solar (CSS): e.g. technical assessment or assistance with development of a CSS on public or private property. We also reviewed a DOER guidance document about Community Shared Solar in Massachusetts. We discussed the META Grant application requirements, time lines, evaluation criteria, etc. We agreed on the outline of questions we had for DOER regarding the META grant application process. We agreed to meet again on November 16 to review the responses from DOER to our questions, and to work on a draft application.

Our two guests explained that they had recently moved to Monterey, and they have previous experience with solar installations. We thanked them for coming and invited them to continue to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Hoogs

Monterey Renewable Energy Working Group