

Notes

CSCTF Meeting; June 26,2021

Present: Suzan, Cathy, Colleen, Derek, Scott and Paul

NYSERDA Grant and ASHP for Town Hall

Committee's immediate focus is to find a use for the grant money that NYSERDA will allow. It's possible that not using the funds (about \$71,000) could hurt the town's ability to obtain future grants. Suzan asked for an extension on the grant contract. Our grant projects should be completed by the end of this month. The request has been informally, but not officially, granted. At this point, NYSERDA has outlined ONLY two options for using the grant funds (these options are, of course, subject to final NYSERDA approval once a formal request is made). Both offer greenhouse gas savings and either would be a good choice. Here are the two possibilities:

1. Replacing the HVAC system at town hall as described in Suzan's email that she distributed last week, following the conversation that Suzan and Bob Travis of CPL had with NYSERDA. This new system would consist of a dual-fuel unit for 1/3 of the building and cold climate ASHP units for the remaining 2/3. Bob estimated that the ASHP portion of this installation would cost about \$179,000. The town has already purchased the dual fuel unit to cover 1/3 of the building. CSCTF has previously summarized the primary benefit of pursuing the ASHP option, which is that the town would no longer need to burn fossil fuels to heat the building, at least for the 2/3 covered by the ASHP system. After factoring in the NYSERDA funds, and other grants and the Solstice incentives (totaling about \$85,500) the cost to the town for the cold climate ASHP system for 2/3 of the building would be about \$93,500. The estimated cost of two additional dual fuel units, instead of the ASHP units, would be about \$30,000. Thus, for an estimated additional cost of \$63,500, town hall would considerably lessen its use of fossil fuels by installing the ASHP system. Also, there will be financial savings from using less propane, the cost of which is likely to rise. And, Central Hudson's Clean Heat NY program offers ASHP incentives of \$1,600 per 10,000 BTU/hr.

2. Electric Vehicles. The benefit of this option is that EVs do not run on fossil fuels. The energy needed to charge EV batteries will increasingly come from renewables as the NYS grid moves in that direction. If the town is interested in this option, CSCTF would need to quickly know the electric vehicles it would like to buy (model, make, etc.), the vehicles they would be replacing (same info) and some information about their expected use. If these were to be new additions to the fleet, and not replacement vehicles, we would need to know what gas-powered vehicles the town would be buying if not for the grant. The committee has learned that the town will be buying a vehicle for Neighbor-Helping-Neighbors. Perhaps an electric vehicle would meet their needs.

For purposes of comparing the negative impacts of propane associated with HVAC furnaces with impacts of gasoline associated with conventional vehicles, see the following website: https://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/co2_vol_mass.php. Colleen stated that replacing a gasoline vehicle with an EV may yield more benefits.

As to other grant possibilities for this project, the only one CSCTF has identified that appears feasible is \$5,000 from NYSERDA if the town were to now adopt the NY-Stretch Energy Code. It will soon be mandatory.

The committee will ask the town to adopt one of these two options at its next board meeting in July. CSCTF will then officially ask for approval from NYSERDA to use the funds in accordance with the town's decision.

Recent emails from Art and others in town indicate an interest in investing funds, possibly up to \$200,000, in energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction beyond the boundaries of the NYSERDA grant. The ideas expressed in the emails are exciting.

Solstice Community Solar

Colleen reported that almost 70 people have registered for Solstice community solar.

CSCTF Webpage

Jeff reported that he will be working on the CSCTF webpage.

Climate Smart Communities – Cornell Cooperative Extension

Colleen and Suzan reported that they will be meeting with Kelsey West of the Cornell Cooperative Extension to discuss a bronze level CSC certification.