

**Minutes**  
**Chester Clean Energy Team**  
**January 18, 2024**

Members: Pat Woomer\*, Sandy Prisloe, Rick Holloway (chair), Peter Harding, Ed Meehan\*, Dick Leighton, Cindy Lignar (ex officio) (\* = not in attendance)

Guests: Steve Pytlik and Cam Evangelista (both DPW)

The E-Team meeting was called to order at 2:07 pm

**1. Approval of minutes.**

Previous minutes had been sent in a format which was not convenient, so will be re-issued to be approved at the next meeting.

**2. Lighting and EV Charging Stations**

DEEP has approved construction at the Water Street site. Funding will be available until June 30, 2025. Discussion of possible flooding problems. Dick L will complete the RFP for this site and will check Building Code requirements for construction in flood zones. Sandy P will check with the DEEP to ensure they understood flooding issue.

Discussion of alternative sites (North Quarter Park, Maple Street pkg lot, Library) if necessary. Maple Street lot appears to be the best alternative if Water Street doesn't work out. Also questions of supporting ongoing maintenance, how some part of the revenue gets to the town, and protection against possible damage or vandalism. These will all be discussed at the next E-Team meeting.

Discussion of funding. Cindy L and others will check with Board of Finance tonight to determine status of funds set aside for this project.

**3. Electricity Supplier for the Town.** This has been resolved. Titan Energy (through CCM) supplies the town.

**4. Water Use**

Discussion of data on water use at town facilities. Cam E will speak to the irrigation company to see if actual water use is consistent with guidelines. Over the past few months, leaks in the irrigation system at the war memorial have been corrected as well as leaks through toilets and other fixtures in town facilities. Rick will gather information on possible use of touchless faucets at the Town Hall and Meeting House since water has been found running in the sinks at both locations.

**5. Town Hall Solar Panels**

Roof repair or replacement is not scheduled until 2025, at which time the contractor is obligated to remove and reinstall the solar array at no cost to the town. Discussion of possible advantages of upgrading to newer components and increasing the number of panels. Rick will contact a few installers to obtain information.

**6. Data Tracking.**

The E-Team will continue to track utilities for the Town, and issue semi-annual, and possibly quarterly updates.

## **7. Improving Energy Performance**

- a. Solar at the Firehouse or Town Garages: Although the Firehouse site is well-suited for capturing solar energy, ongoing problems with roof leakage make the installation problematic. A contractor evaluated possible installation of a solar energy system at the Town Garage and concluded that the problems of shading and roof orientation prevent this from being a desirable project at this time.
- b. Energy audits of town buildings: Peter H presented an evaluation of the results of energy audits by a contractor of three town buildings (Firehouse, Town Hall and the Meeting House). The E-Team concluded that none of the projects proposed by the contractor were cost-effective at the prices quoted. The audits pointed out some small weatherization fixes (such as improving weatherstripping some exterior doors and sealing some plumbing penetration) at the Town Hall which could be easily performed by the DPW.
- c. Peter H distributed a summary of annual usages of oil and electricity over the past 10 years. New, more efficient boilers and water heaters were installed at the Town Hall about two months ago and should present energy savings. The Town Garage saw similar upgrades.

## **8. Revision of the Comprehensive Energy Plan.**

Little progress has been made on this task for several months. All members of the E-Team are requested to review the entire document before the March meeting in order to determine how the document can be effectively updated with minimal effort.

9. The **next meeting** will be on February 1, 2024 at 2:00 PM, primarily to address issues regarding the EV Charging Station project.

Respectfully submitted.  
Rick Holloway