

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2020

Attendance:

Committee members: Clay Caddy, Gail Thomas, Russ Dann, Al Couch, and Dick Snow

Also in attendance- invited guests Ryan Polson from Standard Power and Bob Mitchell from Historic Motor Sports.

The focus of this meeting was to have Ryan update us on the new power bill recently passed by the state, along with updates on the power contract the town has with Standard Power. Bob attended to see if Ryan could help him to work out an arrangement so the town would be able to use the excess solar power from his system at Historic Motor Sports.

Ryan started by summarizing net metering and how it works. He also said that the rules were a bit complex. He mentioned that the rules for under 100 kw are different than the rules for over 100 kw. He also said that this works differently than group net metering. Ryan said he has no problem working with Bob to try to set up the arrangement to sell his excess power to the town at a wholesale rate. He will also help Bob with the necessary paperwork.

Bob went over the specs and details of the solar system he installed last year at Historic Motor Sports. His system is actually three systems installed adjacent to one another, with a total of 150 panels. He now has a good handle on his energy use, and on the excess that is available that could be used by the town. He said that there is an excess of about 32 mw over what he needs at his business.

Ryan noted that the town uses a total of 120-130 kwhs per year.

Ryan talked about the new municipal aggregation bill the state passed. (SB 286) This bill allows a community to set up an agreement with an energy supplier, and to aggregate all homes and businesses into the agreement. This allows everyone in town to have access to lower power rates, as the town would be able to use this "community power" program to give the town a competitive power rate and to use the best energy sources available.

Ryan also talked about the possibility of meters being converted to "Smart Meters", which track power usage throughout the day. Because the Smart Meter tracks the amount of energy use over the course of the day, it would be able to help people lower their energy use at peak times of the day. If energy use can be lowered at peak times, this would help to keep rates down.

Both Ryan and Bob answered questions from the committee. There was then a general discussion of setting up a plan for the town to buy the excess solar power. Ryan and Bob said they would be glad to work together to start the process, and then they will contact the committee to come to a future meeting with updates.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 26.

Respectfully Submitted,
Al Couch, Recycling & Energy committee member