

Northport Energy Action Taskforce, Inc.
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2016

Meeting called to order 9:10 AM

Members Attending:

Steve Smiley, Doug and Ann McInnis, Gene Garthe, Bill Collins, George Wellman, Phil Loud, Joe DeFors, Jan Rygwelski, Phil Von Voigtlander, Jane Gale, Ed Reinert, Jane and Russ Packard, Rick Foster, Tom Gallery, Dick Lang, Tim Overdier, Arne Land'e, Kathy and Don Frerichs

I. Approve Agenda

II. Treasurer Report

Northport Energy Balance: \$1,265.42

III. Miscellaneous

A. Michigan Senate Bills 437 & 438

The Senate Energy & Technology Committee is holding hearings on these bills. As currently proposed, SB 438 would significantly change net metering such it would no longer make economically sense for an individual or business to invest in renewable energy. Details of the changes discussed.

B. Cherryland Electric

Cherryland Electric, a cooperative, has also reduced the credit it will give its customers for over production of renewable energy from approximately 11 to 3 cents. As with the proposed Senate Bills the new Cherryland policy will effectively eliminate any financial incentive to install solar because it nearly doubles the payback period.

It was decided we need to become more proactive. Joe DeFors agreed to coordinate a group that will work toward organizing a campaign to fight the New Cherryland Net Metering Policy. We need to expand our efforts, such as, contact our own representatives, identify people with influence, work with Dan Worth and others from Groundwork.

At our next meeting we will continue to brainstorm about how to refine our strategy and tactics.

C. We are working with Andy Thomas of Thomas & Milliken to find a possible renewable energy system that could utilize the scrap wood and saw dust the business accumulates. The energy project could also serve as a model for the U of M grad PACE Renewable Energy Program Plan and Pilot Project. Northport Energy members (Steve, Tom, Kathy and Doug), U of M grad Rees Blanchard and Cory Connolly (PACE coordinator) will meet with Andy during May memorial weekend to consider various energy system and PACE opportunities in Leelanau Township.

Meeting adjourned 10:45 AM