

Northport Energy Action Taskforce, Inc.  
Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 2016

Meeting called to order 9:05 AM

Members Attending:

Doug and Ann McInnis, Gene Garthe, George Wellman, Joe DeFors, Jan Rygwelski, Jane Gale, Ed Reinert, Jane and Russ Packard, Rick Foster, Tom Gallery, Tim Overdier, Kathy and Don Frerichs, Ann Rogers, David Petrove, Nick Sica, Jim Landes

**I. Approve Agenda**

**II. Treasurer Report**

Northport Energy Balance: \$1,265.42

**III. Miscellaneous**

A. Cherryland Electric Campaign

Joe DeFors, Coordinator of the Cherryland Net Metering Committee, lead a discussion on the need for a new perspective of the Cherryland Electric Board. Currently CE has closed meetings with little or no opportunity for customers or community engagement. In a closed meeting, and entirely without input from its members, CE changed its net-metering policy for residential solar installations such that the payback time for new systems will double to approximately 25 years - effectively killing any incentive for new solar installations. The new policy is set to go into effect November 1, 2016.

The CE Net Metering Committee has identified a goal to have CE call a "Time-Out" on implementing the new net metering policy and ask for true engagement with the community. The strategy is to reach out to each of the primary target audiences with prepared talking points and facts that will speak to each in their world. Having an open rational discussion hopefully will bring them around to creating a policy that is more solar friendly and the smart thing to do.

The first will be a writing campaign. The Committee is finalizing editorial topic ideas and fact sheets to be used in public media and discussions.

Important dates coming up:

CE Quarterly Meeting this Monday June 20, 9:00 AM at the Cherryland Office in Grawn.

Goal is to get a dozen or more to attend and speak. Joe DeFors, [Joe.Defors@cema.biz](mailto:Joe.Defors@cema.biz) has suggested variety of topics. Please contact Joe if you plan to attend.

CE Annual Meeting, Thursday June 23, 4:00 PM at Incredible Mo's in Grawn.

B. Michigan Senate Bills 437 & 438

The Senate Bills were voted out of Committee and are now pending in the Senate. The Senators left for an in-district work period on Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> without addressing an energy overhaul. Majority Leader, Arlan Meekhof said there was more work to do with stakeholders. 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.

Meeting adjourned 10:45 AM