

To: Members of Greenbelt Community Solar

From: Robert Kessel

CC:

Date: February 26, 2012

Subject: Minutes and Actions for the February 14, 2012 GCS meeting

Attendance: Steve Lindner, Frank Gervasi, Jerry Bonnell, John Mason (chair), Lore Rosenthal, and Bob Kessel

Minutes

1. The minutes from the 1/03/12 meeting were approved.
2. Operational status from John Mason, Steve Lindner, and Frank Gervasi:
 - a. Astrum has finished the punch-out list. All wires and especially the inter-connects are now tied off to the mounting structure and clear the roof. For a second system, John Mason and Steve Lindner would like to add a clause to the installation contract that requires the wires and inter-connects be tied clear of the roof. This may not be as essential if the second host has a slanted roof. Still, it's a lesson learned.
 - b. Steve Lindner and John Mason found some fairly sharp bolt anchor clamps on the roof during their last inspection trip. Rather than get Astrum back out, they collected them. Joe Rice's guess was they fell out of someone's work belt as they were not used on GCS's installation.
 - c. All strings are now reporting in via Enphase's Enlighten monitoring. Based on several management committee members checking, the full array was up and logging production by January 10, 2012. The Enlighten monitoring site is also fun to view. During the period from 1/10/12 to 2/9/12 the array captured 1,349 kW-hr. It appears to be possible to link the monitoring site in a public view-only mode that blocks access to the account settings. Hopefully we can set up this public view-only mode on the GCS web-site.
3. Astrum was missing the federal grant representation letter. How is unclear, but between John Mason and Jerry Bonnell, the letter with the LLC's DUNS number was drafted and hand-carried up to Astrum. This closes out the application for the Federal 30% grant. The Maryland Solar grant is also been filed in the commercial category. It will probably be some months before either grant check arrives, it looks like we'll be able to provide a return of capital payment to the LLC's members within CY12.
4. Discussion of billing:
 - a. The PEPCO billing for Greenbelt Baptist Church appears to close on or near the second Tuesday of the month. If true this is convenient as January 10th is the first day we're certain the Enlighten monitoring was operating properly. For the first billing period, we will use January 10th through GBC's actual PEPCO billing close. From February on, we'll use a one month billing period.
 - b. Jerry Bonnell will set up the billing with Richard Simonen.

5. Treasurer's report from Jerry Bonnell. The bank account balances again this month. Astrum has been paid off in full. There have been a couple of other expenses. In answer to one committee member's questions (my notes don't list who), Richard Simonen has yet to bill the LLC.
6. We held an extended discussion of potential second projects and potential hosts.
 - a. Steve Skolnik, Dale Barish, and Vince Wilding met with Laurel Presbyterian Church members and they are very interested becoming a host site. It wasn't completely clear how many members of the congregation would step forward as members of a management committee. They do want GCS's evaluation of whether their Church is a viable site.
 - b. The interest on the part of Laurel Presbyterian Church for a fast start to a project moved the discussion to the more general questions of what characteristics they would like to see in a second host site.
 - c. Steve Lindner had estimated the impact of the change in the Federal grant -- The pay back period stretches to 13 years. This changes the presentations we should give to interested groups. If grant restriction to just a tax credit against other passive income is really absolute, a Community Solar becomes much of a matter of personal values and less a mid-term investment.
 - d. All Saints Lutheran Church in Bowie. John Mason, Steve Lindner, Dale Barish, and Vince Wilding were the GCS representative who met members of this Church. Other than needing a new roof, this appears to also be a good site. Their interests are pretty much in line with those of Laurel Presbyterian and Christ Congregational Church.
 - e. Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring. Other than having a slate roof that would mean a more complex mounting and racking system, this appears to also be a good site. Their interests are pretty much in line with those of Laurel Presbyterian and Christ Congregational Church.
 - f. City of Greenbelt. Given that this site is in Greenbelt, there was more interest in pursuing this opportunity for a second site. The question accommodating the change in the Federal grant meant we're still not certain we can develop a good business case.
 - g. After considering the potential second sites and the change in the Federal grant, we decided to take a four month hiatus before working on a second site.
7. Lore Rosenthal reported on an effort to establish a citizens' campaign to move Maryland to allowing solar gardens. Steve Lindner passed out a one-page summary of the proposed Community Renewables Energy Act (sponsored by Sen. Pinsky and Delegate Dana Stein). Lore would like to arrange support for the bill. Dave Brosch and Dave O'Leary are coordinating which of Maryland's legislature it would be helpful for our members and interested supporters to contact. The first reading of the bill is March 6th, which is a bit close to the April end of the session. As this moves forward there may be a point when writing letters to members or perhaps testifying on behalf of the bill would help.

8. Next management committee meeting is Wednesday April 18th at 7:30 pm at my house (7105 Mathew Street).

Actions

1. Bob Kessel to generate a .pdf version of the 1/3/12 minutes and send them to Dale Barish to be posted to the web-site and emailed to the distribution lists.
2. Frank Gervasi will get in touch with Astrum to get copies of any as-built or final drawings. If there are any such drawings that differ substantially from the initial design, Frank will forward copies to Jerry to keep with our records.
3. Dale Barish to investigate whether the Enphase Enlighten view-only monitoring can be added to the GCS web-site.
4. John Mason to confirm with Glayde Goodenough that GBC's PEPCO billing cycle close on the second Tuesday of the month.
5. Jerry Bonnell will set up the billing with Richard Simonen. Please check if Rich will need his own password access to the Enlighten monitoring site.
6. John Mason to get in touch with Laurel Presbyterian Church on possible routes forward. First, where does the congregation want to go with a solar project? Mainly as a passive host similar to GBC or with an active involvement like the UPCS's interactions with the UP Church of the Brethren. Second, let them know it will take some time for us to decide how the change in the Federal grant program is going to affect further programs.
7. John Mason to get in touch with All Saints Lutheran Church on possible routes forward with same replies as with Laurel Presbyterian Church.
8. Frank Gervasi to get in touch with Christ Congregational Church on possible routes forward with same replies as with Laurel Presbyterian Church.
9. John Mason to get in touch with the City of Greenbelt. The primary message is that we're still interested in the Public works building as a second site, but it will take some time for us to decide how the change in the Federal grant program is going to affect further programs.