

ARTICLE 22: Citizen Petition: Municipal In-Town Solar Generation Task Force

Mr. Banfield moves that the Town urge the Select Board to establish a limited duration task force for the purpose of creating a Development Plan for Municipal In-Town Solar Generation, consistent with the goals of the 2020 Climate Action Plan.

The task force shall be five in number, with one member being the Light Plant Director or his assignee, one liaison member from the Climate Action Committee, chosen by that committee, and three at large citizen members, appointed by the Select Board.

The duration of the task force shall be at the discretion of the Select Board, but updates on progress shall be provided to the Climate Action Committee no less frequently than every 2 months. The task force shall present the final plan to the Select Board and to the Light Board.

The Plan shall address the following areas:

- Reaffirmation of rationale for Municipal, In-Town Solar goals.
- Siting opportunities, consistent with 2022 Article 38 and its limits on tree removal
- Technical challenges to the local distribution network, and means to overcome them, including battery storage, if warranted
- Financial analysis of cash flows and assessment of the various business models for development and deployment
- Projected schedule to meet the 2030 solar capacity targets along with assessment of feasibility

Notes

Last year, Article 38 called for the Light Plant to develop a strategic plan to achieve Concord's Climate Action targets for municipal electricity generation. Due to its numerous priorities over the last year, CMLP has not made sufficient progress in creating a plan, while at the same time evidence continues to mount that industrialized nations are not doing enough to ward off a global climate catastrophe. Concord needs to develop renewable energy locally rather than asking others in New England to do this for us. Our numerous municipal rooftops, parking lots and select areas of open municipal land provide excellent opportunities for solar generation. By generating electricity locally we will save on the cost of purchased electricity by eliminating transmission charges and mitigating capacity charges levied by the New England power grid and reduce the increasing strain on its wider transmission infrastructure. This article requests that the Select Board appoint a task force to finish the strategic plan that the Light Plant has not completed.

Dean Banfield
73 Walden Terrace