

To: Board of Selectmen Members

From: Lynne Vanderslice

Date: April 30, 2021

RE: May 3rd BOS Meeting

In advance of Monday's meeting, the following is information on two agenda items:

Inland Wetland Fees-At a previous meeting, we agreed to eliminate the additional wetland disturbance fee. We do not need a public hearing to do so.

At that meeting, I also suggested we examine the activity fees. Following the 2007 recession, the Board of Selectmen had concerns about taxpayers' tolerance for increases in the mill rate. The Board increased fees charged by departments as a supplemental means of funding the cost of department operations.

I recommend we discuss that continued applicability and further explore the comparison to fees charged by other towns as previously provided by Mike Conklin. To provide some context, the following are the fees paid by a homeowner when installing a generator within the regulated area:

Inland Wetlands Minor Activity Fee-Town of Wilton:	\$150.00
State of CT IW Fee:	\$ 60.00
Health Department Review Fee:	\$ 50.00
Zoning Fee:	\$ 25.00
Building Dept Fee:	Typically \$40.00 to \$102.00

Shared Clean Energy Facilities Program-Eversource is accepting applications for their Shared Clean Energy Facilities Program. See the information about the program provided in the meeting packet. The program is similar to the virtual net metering programs that we currently participate in, except those eligible to receive credits on their electric bill is greatly expanded to include residents and small businesses.

Eversource will be giving priority to systems built on landfills. Cela Sinay, the Managing Partner of Citrine Power, who we teamed with on our other VNM projects, contacted Chris and me about the possibility of a project adjacent to the Transfer Station. The parcel totals over 74 acres, so there appears to be sufficient excess land available, if useable. Chris and I are recommending we work with Citrine to investigate the possibility.

Besides the benefit of a new renewable energy source, the specific benefits to Wilton would be:

- The Town would receive rental income under a land lease.
- Wilton residents and small businesses could be prioritized to receive credits on their Eversource bills. (The Town is ineligible to receive credits because we are already a participant in solar credit programs.)

Applications are due in June. Therefore, we will move quickly to determine feasibility. If feasible, we would return to the Board with a proposal.