The Board meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.

1. Approval of February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Licht requested a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Mr. Bradner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written, and Ms. Bartsch seconded it. All approved.

2. Solar Siting (The Nature Conservancy and Audubon Society of Rhode Island Presentation)

Ms. Kerr provided a brief presentation on existing forest values and benefits of Rhode Island’s forests. Ms. AnderBois then provided an overview of the primary issues associated with solar siting and 2021 legislative recommendations. Policies that encourage renewable energy development, which included Net Metering/Virtual Net Metering and the Renewable Energy Growth program were discussed. Ms. AnderBois discussed remaining considerations including tracking projects, a state siting report and opportunities for inter-agency partnership and programs.

3. Legislative Updates (Office of Energy Resources)

Mr. Kearns provided a brief summary on the 2021 renewable legislation that was introduced. The bills included expansion of RES to 100% Renewables by 2030, expansion of the Community Solar program, extension of the REF and energy efficiency programs, and modifications to the Virtual Net Metering program.

4. Methodology Review for Roof Mounted Solar (National Grid Presentation)

Mr. Springsteel provided an overview of research and recommendations on the solar capacity factor for roof mounted solar. Sample angle and azimuth of arrays were presented, as well as the
comparison of actual and photovoltaic watts capacity factors. Mr. Springsteel also provided the suggested approach as a table with capacity factors for ranges of angle and azimuth. Next steps for the study included a further analysis of outliers, possible use of an installer supplied capacity factor validated with the table and investigating technical requirements to automate the use of capacity factors. It was noted that the general timeframe of these recommendations would be for the current program year.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Sabetti expressed appreciation for National Grid’s presentation and the work done on the methodology review.

Mr. Wallace expressed concern with National Grid’s table approach not capturing shading in the study, and inquired about an installer applied capacity factor for shading.

There were no additional public comments.

6. Adjourn

Chairperson Licht requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Dormody made a motion, and Mr. Bradner seconded it. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.