

ASHBURNHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Mark Carlisle, (chairman), Ed Vitone, Kyle Johnson, Douglas Briggs, Kelly Brown, Regional Coordinator, Green Communities Division, Mass. Dept. of Energy Resources, and Sylvia Turcotte.

Mark Carlisle opened the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

The meeting began with a discussion on possible co-mingling of grant funds. Kelly Brown stated that they should spend all the existing funds first and then apply for a competitive grant. In order to be eligible all projects must be completed by the end of February. She noted that we could qualify when the “sapphire” grant comes up and she added that we would need to keep them informed. She also mentioned that funds should be used to do a study under the grant as a cost benefit analysis.

There was a short discussion on the Overlook School project.

Mark Carlisle stated that we should apply for a competitive grant but not this year. He noted that we need to decide which type of heating system; split, pellet or oil.

Kelly Brown stated that in the initial budget the funds for a heat pump were already approved in the grant as well as the LED lighting at the Public Safety Building.

- Review insulation project

Doug Briggs stated that at the next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 8th at 9:00 a.m. they would review the project timeline. He stated that the carpenter has done all the preliminary work so that it's ready for the insulation and we were hoping to start work the week after next and it could take about two weeks including the prep work to complete.

Ed Vitone stated that once the insulation work is complete they could start measuring the savings which could be significant. Kelly Brown noted that once the project is finished, then they should ask for the second disbursement along with all required documentation.

- Discuss and vote on the heating loop of domestic hot water at the Library

Ed Vitone stated that a lot of water is wasted in order to get hot water and that the loop on the hot water tank has no check valve. He noted that a plumber could put a circulator and timer to keep the water hot. Kelly Brown suggested checking to be sure the pipes are wrapped properly as this would help. She also suggested some “little hot water systems” could be installed that are not that expensive. Ed Vitone

noted that although the systems are not that expensive, the plumber cost would be substantial. He stated that he would put more insulation on the pipes, and that his first proposal would show a four or five year payback depending on the method used. Kelly Brown noted that he should get quotes and list his qualifications as pro bono. Mark Carlisle stated that they would vote on this at their meeting on Monday.

Ed Vitone stated that he had a meeting yesterday regarding the LED lighting and that he would have quotes in two weeks which would include the ballasts. He also noted that they were looking at motion sensors where lights were not frequently used.

He also noted that they would wait on the control system until the heating system is decided.

Kelly Brown stated that there was an incentive grant at the Light Department back when Stan Herriott was Manager that should be looked into. She noted that this grant in part, was to give to the community. She said that she would check into this as well.

Ed Vitone stated that they did a full study on heat pump systems. He stated that the heat pump system is a feasible approach to get away from oil. He added that the current system is making it for this season.

Kelly Brown stated that this would be in the range for a competitive grant but that they wouldn't get incentives as the cost is a lot for one project. Ed Vitone inquired if the Library Trustees commit \$20,000 to the project would it help the cause? Ms. Brown stated that it might.

Ms. Brown stated that they could set up a back up system beforehand, and it could be mentioned in the application that the Town has a Municipal Light Department and is paying a lower electrical rate and also to get more hard data.

Mark Carlisle mentioned that the Committee went to two locations in New Hampshire to look at split systems but that pellet storage was a question. He stated that the old Piano Museum building basement could be the storage area for two boilers and 12 to 15 tons of storage, with an air handler installed as well. Then a line could be installed from the Stevens building to Town Hall, with a heat exchanger and then to the Library and a heat exchanger. He noted that the cost would be approximately \$320k with a payback of around 30 years.

Kelly Brown suggested that they get an actual study done for long term, funding and payout.

Ed Vitone noted that his first thought would be that the cost would go up and that we already know that we would need Town dollars which we don't have. Kelly Brown stated that they could look at CEC for funding as its all timing but the cost could come up higher and their grant is only up to \$250k. She also noted that they should look at funds for a study first which could cost between \$15k and \$20k.

Doug Briggs noted that everything that has been done is great but they should focus on what needs to be done; insulation, controls, boiler, and lighting at both the Library and the Town Hall and spend the funds that we have.

Kelly Brown agreed and stated that they should look at the costs for lights here at Town Hall, the controls at the Library, get the underground tank out and get a boiler.

There followed a discussion on a boiler and what the capacity should be.

Kelly Brown stated that they should prioritize the boiler and controls for the Library.

At 2:43 p.m., Ed Vitone motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Kyle Johnson. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Sylvia Turcotte
Executive Assistant