

Green Community Committee

Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2011 – Approved January 17, 2011

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room

Members Present: Jeremy Callahan (JC), Allan Wilson (AW), Robert Pontbriand (RP), Ted Staples (TS)

Also Present: Patrick Marr (PM), Emma Kosciak (EK)

Not Present: Carolyn McCreary, David Maher, Faith Salter

APAC taped: NO

7:05 PM – Open Meeting

- **Meeting Minutes**
 - Approval of meeting minutes from November 15, 2011 meeting tabled due to lack of quorum.

- **Green Communities Events**
 - The Green Communities designation will be held at Bedford Town Hall on Monday, December 19, 2011 at 1:00 PM.
 - Local Green Communities designation celebration remains to be scheduled.

- **Green Community Grant I Updates and Future Projects**
 - Future Projects
 - The GCC will determine guidelines for next grant request by April/May 2012.
 - Grant applications are considered under GC in April and August annually.
 - GC Grant I Updates
 - RP indicated that GC Grant I funds have been committed and docs should be submitted to the State this week.
 - Additional National Grid rebates for various upgrades may also be available; this issue remains open.
 - The gas line is complete at the WWTP; pump installation scheduled for January.
 - Conversion of fan coil thermostats at Town Hall is subject to Mass. Procurement requirements; project will go out to bid by RFP after the New Year.
 - The initial grant provided \$2,000 in administrative funds to cover bid docs and advertising.
 - Total anticipated annual energy savings from GC Grant I: \$14,882.

- **Solar Field Project**
 - The GCC is interested in the helping the Town move forward with a solar field project that could reduce energy costs and the Town's environmental impact.
 - Ayer resident Emma Kosciak was present to discuss the solar field project; EK represents NexAmp, a solar field development company.

- In Massachusetts, any town can create up to 10 MW of 'green' energy by providing facilities for a third party to develop for generation of electricity or by purchasing electricity from another provider.
- National Grid must generate 1% of peak demand power from renewable sources.
- The Town would not become an electricity generator, but would have right to purchase electricity.
- Savings could be significant; under the current Constellation contract the Town pays \$.14/kwh.
- Town is currently tied to contract with Constellation; options exist to possibly end this contract; time frame of implementing third party solution could easily take more than one year; NG analysis alone would take six months.
- Proposed Sites
 - WWTP
 - Transfer Station/Landfill Area
 - WW Filter Bed Site
 - Other Possibilities: Other Town Buildings? Schools could also be a possibility.
- Next Steps
 - EK and NexAmp are happy to assist the GCC and the Town in whatever path is chosen.
 - RP will provide available info to EK regarding Town efforts to date.
 - RP will investigate the recent Shirley RFP.
 - RP will look into options for getting out of Constellation contract.
 - JC will look into providing all relevant docs for this project via the web for easy access.
- **"Energy Raisers" Discussion: Postponed**
- **Climate Change in Ayer**
 - Patrick Marr, Ayer resident and candidate for a MS in Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England, made a compelling and informative presentation of his research on the local impacts of climate change.
 - Further information on this presentation is available from the GCC upon request.
- **RGGI Initiative: Postponed**
- **Meeting Schedule**
 - The next meeting will on January 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM.
- **Adjourn Meeting at 8:15 PM**