

Green Community Committee

Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2012 – Approved

Location: Ayer Town Hall, Great Hall Meeting Room

Members Present: Carolyn McCreary (CM), Jeremy Callahan (JC), Allan Wilson (AW), David Maher (DM), Ted Staples (TS)

Also Present: Patrick Marr (PM), Emma Kosciak (EK), Lauri Sabol (LS), Alan Camara (AC)

Not Present: Faith Salter

APAC taped: NO

7:10 PM – Open Meeting

- **Meeting Minutes**

- CM motioned to approve meeting minutes from November and December; JC second
 - Motion approved unanimously

- **Solar Fields**

- EK provided useful feedback to questions regarding solar fields project.
 - Bay State Consultants is producing an RFI to developers interested in installing a solar project on private land and selling power to municipalities in western/central MA; BSC would consider including Ayer in this project.
 - This model could provide cheaper and cleaner energy to Ayer more quickly than a project which developer solar fields on Town owned property; it could also produce lower energy cost; The Town could pursue both options simultaneously.
 - The longest lead item in developing any solar facility is the interconnection with the utility, which takes 12 to 19 months.
 - Solar Renewable Energy Credits would be available to the developer, which would in turn pass them on the Town in the negotiated energy price.
 - Other credits might be available.
- JC motioned to create a Solar Fields working group to take on this issue; CM second.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - Working group members: EK, PM, RP, CM
- JC will create Google account in which solar related documents can be stored and shared with all members.

- **Future Projects**

- Solar Fields (above)
- Energy Raisers
 - A volunteer effort (similar to Habitat) for energy efficiency improvements; could be difficult to administer any program that includes income restrictions.
 - Encourage MassSave audit.

- WWTP: As the highest energy user in Town, perhaps additional projects could be focused here for savings; DM will research other expertise that might be available under GC.
- DM will research what other communities have accomplished under GC.
- **Signs, Compactor and Publicity Event**
 - DPW has the GC signs for installation.
 - Location of compactor will be resolved by the Energy Committee.
- **Education and Outreach**
 - Sunday, April 22 is Earth Day and Saturday, April 21 is Town wide yard sale; JC motioned to schedule GC celebration to coincide with Town wide yard sale; AW second.
 - Motion approved unanimously.
 - CM related positive experience with MassSaves audit
 - Audit is free.
 - Weather sealing is free.
 - Up to 75% of costs of improvements covered.
 - DM indicated \$2,600 is available from the Econ. Dev. Department for advertising.
 - JC to follow up.
 - CM provided information on her home solar installation
 - Transformations Solar will install solar panels on CM residence roof.
 - Panels will provide electricity for CM residence; power utility will buy excess.
 - Solar Renewable Energy Credit and sale of excess electricity result in 6 – 7 year payoff of investment.
 - The electricity meter really does spin backwards when power is sent out to the grid.
- **Other**
 - ASRSD has selected an Owner's Project Manager for the Senior High School renovation project: Simms Manney McKee Architects.
 - An energy sustainability charrette will be conducted; AW will keep GCC advised.
- **Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 28 at 7 PM**
- **Adjourn Meeting at 8:35 PM**