

## **Deerfield Energy Resources Committee**

March 19, 2010

Minutes

Present: Kathy Melnik, Amy Gazin-Schwartz, Jay Striker, David Gilbert Keith, M.A. Swedlund

- 1.) Minutes for both January and February meetings approved.
- 2.) M.A. with ESCO energy audit update: Most town buildings need primarily low-cost fixes, such as energy efficient light bulbs. However, the HVAC systems at the schools and the roof insulation at the elementary school [DES] are sources of energy inefficiency that are more costly to fix (and costly not to fix). It appears work will be necessary at DES, so when the roof is opened to re-insulate and re-shingle, it would be a fine time to install solar photovoltaic and hot water systems.

As for potential energy savings from the ESCO-recommended efficiency improvements, we can keep the savings or allocate them.

Kathy asks whether the different schools can work together (e.g.: Conway is also working on its roof). M.A. replies that one of the district's physical plant supervisors is hoping all local towns will go to the same kind of HVAC systems because it would smooth the learning curve, making it easier to share maintenance expertise.

M.A. recommends writing to Mark Gilmore to the effect that: "When the roof is replaced on the school building, we strongly urge integrating the installation of photovoltaics and solar water heaters into the planning process." So moved and approved.

Kathy notes that Bement's newest building has both solar panels and solar hot water heaters on its south roof. M.A. points out that photovoltaics can come in the form of shingles as well as panels.

- 3.) M.A. on Green Communities: Peggy Sloane and Stacy Metzinger to present meeting April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM in the town offices. Bernie Kubiak will put notices in town office mailboxes. After brief discussion, it is decided that at this stage the primary effort will be to notify key people and most interested parties (e.g.: realtors, builders, developers) rather than the general public. Though all are invited, emphasis will be on notifying stake-holders, especially in regard to stretch codes. Jay will be sure the building inspector is aware of the meeting. Kathy volunteers to contact realtors.
- 4.) The transfer station: The select-board is due to consider permit fees. We agree to send a letter to select-board including the following: "The Energy Resources Committee recommends that the Landfill Permit cost be lowered or at least not increased in order to encourage use of the transfer station for trash disposal and recycling and to discourage illegal dumping on town land."

M.A. notes decline in recycling. Recycling as a percentage of total hauling has dropped, so the decline is not just a result of less overall disposal. Also, we need to find ways to educate people about what should and should not be recycled: just because the plastic has a recycling symbol does not mean our recyclers want it.

- 5.) Green Communities grant: The town received not only the \$150,000 for energy projects, but also a separate grant supervised by the DOER for an “owner’s agent,” to be chosen from a list they certify and to be paid directly by DOER. We can tell the DOER names of people we most hope to work with and that may be considered as they make their choice.
- 6.) PACE: Bill exists in the legislature and is now under consideration of several committees. Property Assessed Clean Energy financing would give permission for towns to set up a revolving fund citizens can access for energy-related projects to be paid back via tax assessments that stay with the property should there be a transfer of ownership. The Green Communities grant could go toward funding it.
- 7.) M.A. reports the Franklin County Energy Committees [FCEC] meeting was great. Nancy Hazard is writing a letter to WMECO re: community energy use. Also, FCEC is writing to all local banks to emphasize that the town committees view local energy-efficiency projects as important to our communities and to encourage approval of reasonable loan requests.
- 8.) Meeting adjourned

For the committee, David Gilbert Keith