

Meeting Minutes

Deerfield Energy Resources Committee
Town Hall
Conway Street
South Deerfield
Massachusetts 01373

Friday 24 April 2010 3 PM

Present: M.A. Swedlund, Barbara Krolik, Bernie Kubiak, David Keith, Kristan Bakker, Jay Stryker

1.

The meeting was called to order by M.A. at 3:37 PM. The minutes of March 2010 were reviewed, moved to be accepted by Jay, seconded by David, voted unanimously as accepted.

2.

Climate Campaign: M.A. reported that one more local group which is from Greenfield will be traveling to Washington, DC, to visit with Senator Scott Brown. Three prior groups were from the Amherst Grace Episcopal Church, the Amherst350.org, and Climate350. Each of these is bringing citizen concerns to the Senator.

3.

ESCO:

a.

Bernie presented a report reflecting many accomplishments. The Town of Deerfield has been meeting and/or exceeding deadlines. As of this time, the permit process is in place and it is expected the Select Board will approve the ESCO package. We have Ms Greenblat assigned to us to assist with the process. Bernie has signed the contract, and it is expected DOER will do soon.

b.

The present ESCO contract is around \$150,000, with the money to be used for the Elementary School, primarily HVAC and "envelope" remediation. It is presumed the work will result in about \$28,000 savings per year. The Town gets a favorable loan rate of around 2%, and thus the savings will provide a payback perhaps less than ten years. The school work will have to be done at holiday and vacation times; thus cannot be done as a single large event. The recording and reporting chores are onerous: both Federal and State have "deep detail".

c.

Bernie has Mr Bill Lesco of the school system as the primary contact person, and Bill will be working from a website to coordinate with Bernie and Siemens and/or their contractor(s). The contractor will provide most of the reporting information directly to this website. The school timeline is through 2012.

d.

The ESCO process has several components which are still undergoing alterations: labor regulations, "Buy American", and historic impacts are a few of these. As rules and regulations are promulgated, the contracts will reflect them, and times for completion may be shortened or lengthened accordingly.

e.

The final ESCO loan will be presented in Town Meeting.

f.

The Senior Center will not be on the ESCO funding this time. It has several major problems which must undergo architectural review before putting in any money for energy efficiency.

g.

The Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) likewise, is not on the current ESCO funding. However, the Town provided the WWTF with about \$40,000 two years ago for energy efficiency and certain projects are already underway. Siemens had commented on the quality of the design effort they saw. One such action is the shift from fixed to "Real Time" electricity purchases, which provides a monthly savings of about \$1700. Mr. Don Chappell has other such projects underway.

h.

The Photovoltaic project is also underway, however, there are some connection issues between the local utility and the project. Other towns have different utilities, and thus are not delayed in this manner. For Deerfield, this is not a "show stopper", but indeed a "show slower".

4.

Recycling and Transfer Station: David moved (after considerable discussion) that: -to emphasize the benefits of recycling and the costs of trash disposal, the Deerfield Energy Resources Committee recommends the Town of Deerfield lower the cost of the Transfer Station permits and compensates for that lost revenue by an appropriate increase in the price of the trash bags. This was moved by Kristan, seconded by Barbara, passed unanimously.

5.

Transfer Station Etiquette: Amy Donovan from FRCOG had some difficulties with Deerfield citizens at the Recycling and Transfer Station. She went there one Saturday to meet with citizens, and also to advise on what not to put into the recycling. She was met with rudeness and even hostility. Many persons deeply resented being told not to mix various items, eg light bulbs into the

glass and plastics, various plastics in with the paper, used kitty little in either, and so forth.

6.

Green Communities: M.A. handed out the GC meeting visual aids, taken from their slideshow. That meeting was not well attended, but a few members of this committee were present. There were no builders or developers attending, a disappointment. Ms Carolyn Ness, who did attend, pointed out the issues of climate change on community planning, including heavier rainstorms which require different storm water and runoff planning.

7.

Stretch Code: This will be brought to the Town Meeting in Fall 2010.

8.

Connecticut Climate Change: a report from Connecticut has "done some of our homework for us" by examining climate change issues. This links into the Green Communities planning.

9.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Jay Stryker