

DEERFIELD ENERGY RESOURCES COMMITTEE
September 23, 2011
MINUTES

Kristen Bakker, Amy Gazin-Schwartz, Jay Striker, MA Swedlund present
Guest: Jacob Howe' FRHS student

1. Minutes: there was no meeting in August due to lack of a quorum. AGS and MAS discussed agenda items, no decisions were made.
2. ESCO update: MA reported that work on the Elementary School is finishing. The Siemens contractor is also doing some of the work included in the Green Communities plan (variable frequency drives, classroom sensors). For the Green Communities reporting, we do not have to distinguish between the ESCO work and other work, we track the energy savings overall.
3. Other grant updates:
Streetlights: Bernie is checking with the Police Chief re: recommended shutoffs. WMECO will shut off without removing the lights so the public can comment. KB asked about notifying the public about streetlight plans; Select Board will decide on the process of implementing the plan.

Town Hall window replacement and wall insulation: Town will talk to Franklin Tech school about students working on the project. Payback time in terms of cost will be long, but improvements will make a big difference to people working in the building. Cost may be much less than estimated.

4. Energy savings tip of the month. Three were submitted together in July. Discussed investigating costs and energy benefits of turning cable boxes/tv off when not in use. Discussion of other venues for tips (DCTV, FCAT) tabled.
5. 12/12 Community Education project: to start in Jan 2012 (campaign to reduce residential energy use in the town by 12% in 2012). Discussed organizing and getting data to start, and who will take on each task.
 - Baseline figures for 2011 residential use for electric (WMECO), gas (Berkshire Gas) oil (call main heating oil suppliers) and publicize.
 - Get co-sponsors from town organizations and businesses
 - Discussed how to calculate average use per household (National Grid includes some info on bill, Franklin County Energy Comm. is encouraging WMECO to do the same)
 - Publicize assistance available for upgrading and improving energy efficiency in homes
 - Get FRHS students to call households and offer information about energy audits, ask for participation in 12/12 campaign, connect people to resources. Discussed offering prizes to students who participate.
 - Discussed setting up a website for the campaign, allowing people to report their energy savings, find resources, etc. Jacob Howe from FRHS has info on costs of registering a domain name and hosting the site, and will work on designing the site.
 - Tasks now to Dec:
 - Baseline (MAS, JS)

- Co- sponsors (MAS)
- Website (JH, with AGS)
- Logo (KB, with JH)
- Publicity (AGS)
- Design town center sign (KB will check with a graphic designer she knows. Stacey at FRCG may have suggestions).

6. New business: Bernie is meeting with ODWWTP about installing solar. JS moved that the DERC recommends investigating pursuing solar power at ODWWTO if it seems feasible, AGS seconded, approved 4-0-0.

7. FC Energy committee: Energy challenge plans are moving ahead, but won't happen till spring at least. Will need to get participation from other towns, and grant-funded time staff to make it possible,

8. Transfer station update: redesign of the transfer station is in process, will include composting. Negotiations between FC Solid waste district and MERF were discussed. Deerfield recycling Jan-June made \$8482.00.

7. Committee elections: MAS stepping down as chair, KB nominated AGS as chair, JS second, elected 4-0-0. The committee voted unanimously to thank MA for her years of dedicated service as chair.

8. Committee plans for upcoming year: work on 12/12 campaign, track Green Communities program.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Gazin-Schwartz