

**ENERGY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2011 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL**

**334 MAIN ROAD, GREAT BARRINGTON**

- I. Call to Order at 5:40pm. Present: Beth Moser, Chris Vlcek, Jenn Bailly, Nancy Rogers, Michele DiSimone, Diego Gutierrez
- II. Approval of Minutes from October 28, 2011. A clarification was noted by Beth. Motion to approve minutes as revised (enclosed) by Beth, 2nd-Diego, all in favor (absentees abstain), motion carries.
- III. Request for Proposal (RFP) for professional building audits.  
The Town (Jonathon, Kevin, Joe) is still working on it. Where to publish? IN addition to the central registry, Chris suggests NESEA (Northeast Sustainable Energy Association). A date should be part of the RFP, say March 1st to complete the audits and report. Diego suggested all data be converted to kBTUs as required for the ERP. Alana suggested an "additional services" section to garner help with organizing the proposed energy strategies for presentation in the ERP. Motion to authorize Chris to review the RFP so the Town can issue prior to our next meeting, by Alana. 2nd by Nancy, all in favor, motion carries. Nancy will call CET to see if they can suggest any RFP format to assist in the ERP.
- IV. Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) – Next steps.
  - a. Green Communities submission.  
Jenn spoke with several people at the DOER on Monday the 7th. The response was that the ERP as submitted was weak on the energy savings measures (eg Table 4) and would not pass as written. It is a lacking we've been aware of for some time. Jenn noted that it would not serve us to go through a rushed process of gaining Selectmen support for an application that wouldn't pass. On her recommendation, Chris acting as Chairman, put a halt to the process. Chris also noted that the format of the ERP following State guidelines was repetitive and confusing. He spoke with the DOER who were fine with the proposed Table of Contents (as distributed), and always seeking feedback on their guidelines. Jonathon had indicated he would revise the format, but is quite busy. It might come back to us as a Committee to revise.
  - b. Should the GBEC carry on our own audits?

Committee thought it useful. The Court House was discussed, but since the Town does not pay utilities, it was decided not to audit for now. Buildings to do: Senior Center- Nancy and Chris; Housi-school, dome and firehouse- Diego & Beth; Recycling Center- Alana & Michelle.

- c. Getting to the charts & facts. See III above.
- d. Streetlight inventory – Senior abatement program, dark skies. Committee supports the suggestion for a Senior Abatement program to map the streetlight locations with a GPS. Jenn will implement. Michelle will look into the street-lighting and Dark Skies, along with Brandee who's already started with that.
- e. Idling. Nancy will look into Lenox policy.
- f. Vehicle Fuel usage – 'Idle-Right' is something to look into. It was suggested (in her absence) that Brandee and Nancy follow up.

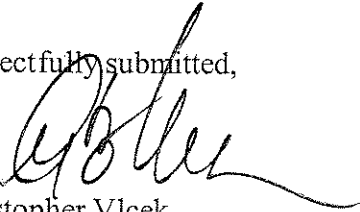
V. Open forum, other projects

- a. Chris noted his focus on the Green Community process. Other initiatives are welcome, should committee members have suggestions and the time to develop.
- b. Michelle suggested that the GBEC have a link with the GB recycling committee. She noted that Michael Thomas, the originator of the 'art receptacles' in town, said of the original 17 bins, only 7 have survived, and they need to be removed in winter. It would be good to have a system that can be used through the winter.
- c. Beth suggested a program to make Homeowners aware of State programs to pay for energy upgrades. She will begin to scope this out.
- d. Solar Farm. Alana noted the public interest in a solar PV farm on Round Pond Rd proposed by the property owner Harold Shaw. The committee was generally in favor of alternative energy, but is unsure at this time what role we might have.
- e. Public comment (Ryan)- suggested that the GBEC hold a meeting to see what the public wants to see in terms of Energy Policy, and this could be integrated with the Master Plan committee efforts.
- f. Chris introduced a new potential committee member, Ryan Caruso. Alana and Jenn will follow up with Kevin to revise the committee number, and Ryan will write a letter of interest.

VI. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm.

VII. Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Christopher Vlcek