

MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9, 2012

5:45 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON

- I. Call to Order at 5:45 pm. Present: Beth Moser, Ryan Caruso, Chris Vlcek, Alana Chernila, Nancy Rogers, and Brandee Nelson. Also present two members of the public
- II. Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2012 and November 27, 2012 Meetings – Beth moved to approve, and Ryan seconded; all voted aye, Alana abstained due to absence.
- III. Green Communities Grant Update - Brandee provided an update on the grant application based on her meeting with Joe Sokul. DOER requested specific contractor costs for the proposed air sealing work. Joe has obtained these, and has also found funds that can be used for Mason Library upgrades to meet the Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) goals from an alternate source. This frees up grant funds to be used on alternate projects identified in the ERP. Joe is using the department's regular budget for building maintenance to implement the first level improvements identified in the ERP. He is looking for the committee's input on alternate items that could be covered by the grant funds; these might include gasboy fuel tracking systems or other improvements.

The committee discussed the baseline status of the ERP and discussed we should help monitor energy consumption based on the MassEnergy Insight program. For fuel efficiency, committee discussed how to pursue improvements to squad cars. Nancy will be the point person to see this action item through.
- IV. Sustainability Meeting – Goal of meeting is to assess solar sites, and discuss other energy efficiency measures. Committee's responsibility is to clarify vision, set goals, and identify action items. Meeting, called by the Select Board, is scheduled for January 30th. Committee reviewed Sean Stanton's letter and discussed. Brandee will recirculate letter to everyone. Ryan and Beth to put together notes on solar sites to share at meeting. Chris led a discussion on content of a letter to the Select Board from the committee, including:

1. Why? Support photovoltaic development to reduce energy needs and carbon, reduce electricity cost; localize energy production; and enhance the reputation of town
 2. How? Support and encourage solar development across various building/venue types using programs such as, Solarize Mass, town owned sites (We discussed the municipality should have no or limited fossil fuel consumption at some point in the future.) or large scale production where appropriate (Note a previous assessment calculated approximately 13 ac of solar would be required to supply municipal energy consumption and 140 ac for town wide energy consumption.)
 3. Clarify Town Bylaws – suggest site plan for X size, or if the energy is being sold (rather than consumed by the site); or, by right for industrial and individual home and business use.
 4. Points for Committee to raise at meeting:
 - Solar site reports – bring to mtng on 1/30 as a working document.
 - Committee’s role – focusing on new technology and research and advocacy to make sure targets are hit.
 - Sustainability issues should include combination of renewable energy Supplement, reduce, eliminate fossil fuel use.
 - Master Plan committee has info on sustainability too - Ryan will send sustainability chapter from Master Plan to the committee.
 - Nancy proposes town reallocate tax dollars for energy conservation and energy generation. Possibly through Community Preservation Act in the future.
 - ERP lays out the 5 year plan for energy reduction.
 - Suggestion from member of public: Co-op power out of Greenfield (West Hatfield) for aggregate purchases of PV; and also look at create financing and recommended a presentation by Mark Orłowski on 1/27/13 from noon-1
 - Encourage all solar including solar hot water
- V. Update on School Building Upgrades informational meeting – Chris attended. No specific tasks for the energy committee; however, the committee should attend and be aware as the school project continues.
- VI. Outreach Efforts – Eric Brown will keep Beth apprised of his workshops so that the committee can raise awareness in the community.

- VII. Open Discussion Items – None.
- VIII. Next Meeting Date- Possible Agenda Items. 2/6 or 2/13; check with Jenn on availability of meeting room.
- IX. Adjournment. Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brandee Nelson
Secretary