

DRAFT MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12, 2013

6:00 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON

- I. Call to Order. 6:10 Present: Alana Chernila, Beth Moser, Brandee Nelson, Ryan Caruso, Chris Vlcek were present. Michele DiSimone was absent. Also present: Matthew Whittemore, Guardian Energy Management
Joe Sokul, Great Barrington Dept. of Public Works
- II. Approval of Minutes from May 8 Meeting – Beth moved, Alana second, all voted in favor of approval.
- III. Guardian Energy Management presentation – Matthew Whittemore presented information on Guardian, a preferred contractor ESCO (energy services company) working with the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) in the Green Communities program to audit buildings and systems to develop a plan for energy reduction which includes turnkey pricing and cost savings plan. They are also a project expeditor for National Grid, who is currently providing 30% incentive for 4 or more energy related projects. Matthew needs to check on Berkshire Gas incentives. National Grid incentives vary by quarter. Guardian is also Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) certified.

Guardian can help get a variety of funding types, and they get paid through the installation of the projects. Costs are kept fair through utility company vetting the cost benefit ratio for the project. Guardian pays prevailing wage on all projects per state standards. Matt will send Chris his references and supporting documents. Chris will circulate to the Committee.

Matthew will provide a list of Towns that Guardian has worked with to Joe Sokul. Joe would like to check references and received company information. Joe advised that the Town is still waiting for contract funding from DOER. Joe will send improvements list for Mason Library to Matthew.

Chris is concerned with slowness of DOER in getting grant funds to the Town, and asked Joe if any funds could be allocated to get projects going to take advantage of the higher incentives offered by the utility in the first half of the year. Joe says funds would have to have been budgeted ahead of time and

that the only building with funds available is Mason Library. No new projects can be considered until July 1 because it is year end. Joe would follow Town policy and get proposals from three firms and approval of the Town Accountant.

Final Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) can be sent to Matthew.

Motion: Brandee moved the Committee request a review by Town Staff regarding the procurement process utilizing Chapter 25A for the use of an ESCO, for the purposes of using available funds for Mason Library to implement the improvements proposed in the Energy Reduction Plan.

Alana seconded. No further discussion. All approved.

- IV. Direction & commitment for the next 2 years – The committee reviewed the Charter memo/resolution and discussed direction.
- Chris stated the committee should keep our focus on ERP follow through and that we shouldn't expand the scope of our too group too far so as not to spread ourselves too thin.
- Brandee thinks we should at least put energy into putting information in front of the select board and town manager, recognizing we don't individually necessarily have the resources.
- Beth likes the SolarizeMass program in particular because it reaches out to individuals in the community. The ERP is just behind the scene municipal improvements that the community can't see. She thinks enthusiasm could be generated through the program.
- Ryan says Master Plan Committee has endorsed SolarizeMass.
- Alana thinks we need to take it the SolarizeMass program to the Town/Manager to see if there are resources we don't know about that could support the program, and she thinks it's within our Charter to do so.
- Beth can write a letter specifying what is needed, actionable items, and deadlines, for a Select Board meeting 6/24 or 7/8. Deadline is October, not September.
- Brandee and Alana will speak to Sean Stanton about getting on the next agenda.
- V. Solarize MA – See above.
- VI. Committee size resolution – Nancy indicated to Beth and Chris she is declining to continue on the committee due to other extensive commitments. Michele has said she would participate if meetings aren't on Wednesday. Peter and Michael have not participated in many months. Alana recommends requesting a select board liaison and having the committee reduced to seven members.

Motion: Alana moved to have Energy Committee go to next possible Select Board meeting reduce the overall size of the committee to seven and that one member be from the Select Board.

Ryan Seconded; all were in favor.

VII. Open Discussion Items - nothing

VIII. Next Meeting Date- Possible Agenda Items. Brandee to check room availability for Tuesday 7/9 and 7/16 for the next energy committee. Hold time at 6 pm.

IX. Adjournment. 7:15 without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandee Nelson", is written over the typed name.

Brandee Nelson