

## Lenox Environmental Committee

Minutes of meeting: March 6, 2017

Present: Eric Federer, Harriet Wetstone, David Rimmler, Susan May, Neil Purdy

Others Present: Chris Ketchen, Jamie Cahillane

HW made a motion to accept minutes from the February 6, 2017 meeting. NP seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

CK spoke about the requirements for Lenox to be designated a Green Community. The town passed bylaws to accept stretch codes for new buildings and committed to reduce energy use by 20%. This year Lenox is upgrading the HVAC system at Morris School and LED lights at the Community Center. For 2017-2018 the heating system at the Community Center will be upgraded as well as HVAC improvements at the high school. These projects were identified by an engineering study done 6-7 years ago. Funding includes Green Community grants, Berkshire Gas rebates, and pro bono help from Williams College with grant writing.

DR asked about the town's water supply, specifically with all the building going on, plus the drought. CK answered that water consumption has actually dropped over the years due to fixed leaks and low-water use fixtures. If Lenox is not able to provide for its own use, the town has an interconnection with Pittsfield for backup.

An issue at the wastewater treatment plant is that groundwater runoff with chemical fertilizers gets into the sewer system during heavy rainfall. The DPW is setting up new standards for wastewater treatment and then the town will have about five years to comply.

Solar panels have been installed on Willow Creek Rd and we're waiting for National Grid to do the interconnection. The solar project in Lee needs to complete contractual arrangements.

The committee discussed whether to sponsor rain barrel distribution this year and decided to wait to see if Lee will do it next year.

EF said that the NEGEF has grassroots and diversity training available. SM will inquire if taking the training is a prerequisite for having a grant awarded.

CVS called TriTown and asked for posters to put up in their stores for the Styrofoam and plastic bag ban. EF passed out new fliers to committee members.

EF will attend a meeting with trash haulers in late March or early April.

SM announced the first networking forum for municipal green committees is set for Thursday, April 27, 6:30-8:30 at the Ralph Froio Senior Center in Pittsfield.