

## Princeton EAC Meeting Minutes

11/20/2017

- Meeting called to order 7:35pm
- Committee members present: Claire Golding (CG); Corey Burnham-Howard (CBH); Phoebe Moore (PM); Phil Gott (PG); Brett Gibbs (BG); Mike Knapp (MK)
- Vote: Public comment moved to end of meeting: unanimous
- Speaker: Kelly Brown, Mass Dept of Energy Resources: Green Communities – Central Regional Coordinator
  - o Municipal Energy Technical Assistance
    - Once a year offer \$12,500 in funds (usually around May) for technical assistance in projects
      - Would require a memorandum of understanding signed by administrator or BOS
      - Could use that to do an energy audit of town buildings
  - o Up to \$7500 in funds available to help towns work towards green communities
    - Princeton would work with Central Mass Regional Planner (Dominique DuTremblay)
  - o Green Communities Designation and Grant Program
    - Up to \$20M in grants and loans to qualifying communities
    - Qualification criteria:
      - As-of-right siting for RE/AE generation (i.e., solar bylaw for about a 5-acre lot for solar, or a wind bylaw), R&D, or manufacturing
      - Expedited permitting process for as-of-right area
      - Energy Reduction Plan to reduce energy use by 20% in 5 years
        - o Baseline year within last 2 FYs
        - o For regional school districts, don't have to include them, but encourage to include local elementary (can only ask for grant funding for buildings that are included)
        - o Would have to be approved by BOS
      - Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles
        - o Really means adopt fuel-efficient vehicle policy
      - Minimize life-cycle cost in new construction → adopt the stretch code
        - o Green communities could provide info session to BOS and building inspector prior to it going to town meeting
          - For commercial side of code, anything less than 100K sq foot is exempt
    - Once qualified, get a grant around \$130K
      - Could apply for projects to use that 130K with
    - Also competitive grants available annually up to \$250K
    - No matching funds required
    - Website has cost analysis of adopting additional stretch code
    - CMRPC could help write the energy reduction plan
    - Additional step for Muni Light Communities

- If you can document that you have a customer serviced by an investor-owned customer, you don't have to adopt the "renewable energy charge" (funds Mass Clean Energy Center, etc.)
    - Good examples for Princeton: New Braintree
- Public Comments:
  - Helga Lyons: It would not be very meaningful to include school in energy reduction plan (because of recent upgrades, including new heating system, new windows, new roof)
- Review and Approve Minutes:
  - Need to finish from last meeting, will vote on at next meeting.
- Questions for Brian Allen of PMLD at next meeting
  - Broad themes:
    - Obstacles / incentives in places for PMLD re: renewables and energy reduction
    - Obstacles / incentives in place for customers re: renewables and energy reduction
    - Obstacles / incentives in place for Town re: renewables and energy reduction
    - Wind mill myths
  - CG will synthesize questions and send on key handful of topic areas
- Mailer: should we seek funds to send out town-wide mailer?
  - Vote: Unanimous in agreement not to send-out mailer (Reasons: Cost, additional time, will be seeking input/reaction after Action Plan is written; use money for that instead)
- Action item: Phil will draft outline of EAP as discussion starter
- Next Meeting
  - Review and approve two sets of minutes
  - Discuss outline of EAP
  - Meeting Brian Allen of PMLD
- Rick Rys is on for December 18<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Knapp