

Meeting Minutes
Wayland Energy Initiatives Advisory Committee
February 29, 2012
7:30 p.m.
Selectmen's Meeting Room

Members present: Anne Harris, Ellen Tohn, Tom Sciacca, Bill Huss
Members absent: Harvey Michaels
Ex-officio members present: John Moynihan, via speakerphone, 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Ex-officio members absent: Fred Turkington
Also present: Dave Watkins, Economic Development Committee

Due to snow, John was not able to stay for the meeting. The Committee first discussed items for which his input was not required and placed a conference call to him at 8:30 pm.

Solar

Dave Watkins reviewed the status of solar initiatives. He has reworked his original draft RFP. Originally he felt it would be best for the Town to do some engineering and solar analysis before issuing the RFP; now he feels it probably best to pursue a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) stating our desired price for electricity and let the responding companies do the rest. He used a price, for example, of between 8 and 12 cents/kWh.

He mentioned there are several consortiums we could act through that have already done the procurement, like Power Options, for instance; the MAPC proposal is just one more. This consortium arrangement offers some advantages; the committee was not sure the town would be able to do better on its own, or had the time or skill set.

Action items: Anne will forward Jim Kelly's name to Dave for possible collaboration with Sudbury.

Dave will contact consortia to gather info; present at future meeting

Solarize Massachusetts

Anne presented the Committee with the RFP from Mass CEC and DOER for a program to encourage residents to install solar panels on their homes. Tiered pricing will offer reduced cost to residents. There is a dedicated resident willing to coordinate this effort, Kaatrien Vander Straeten, but we need to have a commitment from the Town. The major town commitment will be to lead the team to select the solar installer and review the contract between the town and Mass CEC and offer comments.

The Committee felt John Moynihan might not have time for this effort and suggested considering Sarki or some other municipal official. The Committee unanimously voted to pursue submitting a proposal. Ellen offered help drafting the proposal.

Action items:

Anne will follow up with Fred, Sarki to secure commitments.
Anne will notify Kaat of decision and next steps.

Green Community Grant Funds

We have roughly \$80,000 of grant funding left. We need to confirm the deadline; Fred Turkington believes it is December 2012. We had hoped to put it toward either the ESCO or to pay back the audits should we decide not to proceed with the contract, but the ESCO process is moving forward more slowly than expected.

John put the request in his budget for the remainder of the GC funds to upgrade the Town Building heat system and it was not approved. Instead, they want to conduct a “highest and best use study” of all the Town’s buildings. The retrocommissioning at the Middle School could still be done, but, again, we are waiting to see the results of the ESCO to proceed.

Action Items: Anne will confirm deadline for using funds with Jane Pfister. We should decide on spending plan in the next two months (by early May).

***At this point, John Moynihan joins meeting by speakerphone.

Streetlights

Anne had assembled a chart including information from nearby towns who had bought their streetlights, as well as a summary of the decisions before Wayland and a summary of the pros and cons of each case—we purchase the lights and upgrade ourselves through a contractor vs. we stay with NSTAR and let them proceed. She had contacted the Sudbury and Weston DPW Directors and included their information in the handouts. See attached materials.

John Moynihan wanted clarification of the rate we would pay if we were to buy. He feels purchasing lights will create another layer of monitoring that will need to be done by someone at the Town. He still feels more information is needed.

Action items:

John will contact Bill Place and Bob Hoffman from Sudbury and Weston, respectively, to get more information on their experience.

Anne will clarify rate and distribute.

Anne and John will attend the Mass Municipal Energy Group meeting on LED streetlights given by George Woodbury on March 22.

ESCO

John has forwarded the Investment Grade Audit contract from Ameresco to Mark Lanza, Town Counsel, to review. He discussed the status of energy projects in Town at present with Harold Meyer and he’s not sure they will even find a lot of savings. Since the biggest building in town, the high school is done, and one of the biggest energy users, the treatment plant (avg. monthly electric bill=\$8000), is brand new, there are no savings to capture there.

We agreed to meet next Thursday, March 22.

Meeting adjourned around 9:30 p.m.

ARH 3/28/12

Streetlights in Wayland

Current Status as of 2/29/2012:

- NSTAR has replaced 104 mercury vapor lights (and apparently 3 incandescents) with High Pressure Sodium (HPS)
- New totals are:
 - 430 incandescent lights (on admiral head masts)
 - 138 mercury vapor lights
 - 59 older/existing sodium lights
 - 104 new HPS lights—sodium total is 163
 - Total streetlights: 731
- Time is critical as NSTAR can no longer purchase incandescent bulbs or mercury vapor lights
- NSTAR waiting for a decision from us

Decisions to make:

1. Do we go ahead and ask NSTAR to complete the process of replacing the streetlights with HPS lights (they've installed 104 already)?
2. Or do we purchase the lights, likely for \$1, and replace the lights ourselves or through a contractor over time?

If we decide to stay with NSTAR:

- We should specify what wattages the replacements should be

If we decide to pursue purchasing lights:

- We need to notify NSTAR by letter, asking for a price
- We might want to consider hiring George Woodbury as a consultant to advise through process
- We would then need to make a plan for replacing our lights, or put out a contract for bid

Additional info from Weston:

- Consulted with Geo. Woodbury
- Purchased lights for \$1
- 2009—put out bid for changeover and 3 year maintenance contract
- Republic was cheapest and most responsive bidder—got contract
- Replaced with all HPS except town center—(mercury?) for white color
- Conversion cost--\$63,580; Rebate--\$56,246
- Went very smoothly; completed in a month
- Have been happy with maintenance contract

Additional info for Sudbury:

- In 2010 contracted with Republic to change out 295 fixtures for HPS, wattages 35, 50 and 100W at cost of \$21,000
- Operation costs decreased after that accordingly

Buying Lights	Staying with NSTAR; they complete retrofit
<p style="text-align: center;">Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheap now--\$1; won't be if we complete contract • Could replace with lights of our choice, for instance, CFLs in admiral heads, LEDs • Could participate in group purchases like MAPC • Would save money now—estimate \$24,000 if we do nothing • Save even more if we replace lights—estimate \$62,000/yr for HPS, \$5-6,000 more for LED • May have better maintenance and replacement (Sudbury) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still save money replacing with HPS, just not as much--about \$39,000/yr (NSTAR's estimate) • Not responsible for maintenance, bulb outages • No liability
<p style="text-align: center;">Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have to maintain, or contract out • We must do something soon with incandescents; cannot buy replacement bulbs • Mercury also being phased out; would need to replace • Since not metered, must notify NSTAR of light changes and make sure we are getting properly charged (benefit of performance contract—they do) • Dave A. suggested loss of tax revenue; Weston says no 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once upgraded to HPS, will cost more if we want to purchase • No choices for improved lighting—LED, etc. • All admiral head lights will come down • More expensive