

Meeting Minutes (approved 4-0 on 4/24/13)
Wayland Energy Initiatives Advisory Committee
March 13, 2013
7:30 p.m.
Selectmen's Meeting Room

Members present: Ellen Tohn, Tom Sciacca, Harvey Michaels, Bill Huss, Anne Harris
Members absent: John Moynihan
Guests: Travis Estes and Fred Schlicher, Next Step Living
Kaat Vander Straeten of Transition Wayland was unable to attend

Minutes from meeting 2/28/13 approved 5-0

Residential Energy Efficiency Effort

We had invited Travis Estes and his colleague from Next Step Living to discuss doing a residential efficiency effort similar to Solarize. NSL is an approved contractor providing home energy assessments for the MassSave program. Travis described how NSL has done this type of effort with other towns and the program works essentially as follows:

- Target 5% of eligible households in a given year
- They provide canvassers, direct mailings, table staff at events
- Wayland/Committee builds networks and gathers partners
- Goal not just to get home energy assessment, but to act on it—for instance, weatherize 100 homes
- Can partner with non-profits (i.e., WPSF) and make a donation
- Residents could also consider solar, heat pumps, etc.
- Some towns sign a Memorandum of Understanding, others keep it informal
- Time frame is negotiable; generally 6 months to a year

Harvey would love to see a real time, graphical readout of participants; Travis says it's in the works.

We discussed names—"Weatherize Wayland" is catchy but folks may not know what weatherize implies. We'd also like this to be a comprehensive efficiency program, which extends beyond weatherizing. We'll brainstorm at another meeting.

NSL recommends air-source heat pumps to folks as an alternative to oil; several Committee members felt natural gas is a better alternative to oil. NSL said they present all options (some folks do not have access to natural gas); they install heat pumps, but can recommend installers for gas boilers. The 0% HEAT loan offered by MassSave could finance a heat upgrade as well.

The Committee recommends using the spring and summer to gather support and community partners in town, and launching the event in September.

Actions:

Anne—Will follow up with Travis as to Committee's thoughts on moving forward
Ellen—Will request a meeting with Fred Turkington to check what if any approvals we might need to enter into this relationship with NSL

Earth Day

Kaat and the Transition Wayland group are planning a different format for Earth Day than the table fair. They instead are planning a series of Open Houses on Saturday and Sunday April 27 and 28 given by Wayland residents and businesses to highlight their efficiency, resilience or sustainability features. There will be a movie event, "Chasing Ice", to kick off the weekend on Friday April 26 at 7:30pm.

Kaat asked if the Energy Committee would like to sponsor any kind of event. We discussed having an evening speaker in the week leading up to the weekend, or perhaps to have a table at one of the Open House events (a few will be at schools). Anne suggested a presenter on Zero Net Energy homes she saw recently, or Next Step Living, though we agreed we are not yet ready to kick off our initiative.

Actions:

Anne—will investigate possibilities and follow up

ESCO—Municipal Building Energy Upgrade

Anne reported Ameresco is waiting to proceed with the ESCO package until we give the go ahead. Beth is also waiting on us. Ameresco is working up a solar proposal, however.

Actions:

Anne—Encourage Ameresco to finish data gathering so they will be ready to proceed once we get facilities study results and TM is over.

Streetlights

The Committee discussed points to cover in meeting with NSTAR tomorrow (3/14/13).

Tom had looked over spec sheets NSTAR had forwarded us. Two types of fixtures, but it looked as though the wattages of the fixtures to replace the 80W incandescents could be lower still. Also did not see any mention of special features we had discussed such as dimming, communications (notifying when bulb is out). He will inquire at the meeting.

Misc

Anne reported giving the Selectmen a briefing on Committee's initiatives last Monday, March 4. They were receptive and supportive of our efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

ARH 3/22/13