

Northfield Energy Committee  
Tuesday, September 8, 2020 Meeting Notes

*Attendance: Susan O'Connor, Alex Strysky, Jim VanNatta, Andrew Vernon, Judy Wagner*

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Alex Strysky mentioned he will need to leave early for a work engagement.

Review Meeting Minutes from August 6, 2020: Meeting notes approved with noted changes.

Green Communities Annual report will be due early November

- Susan O'Connor and Andrew Vernon will work with Alyssa LaRose and Allison Gage at the FRCOG to enter MEI data and then to complete the Annual Report. Please check on the wood used at the Highway Department and that they probably still burn oil.

Green Communities grant

Conversation with Jane Pfister, Green Communities grant coordinator. We have not heard yet from Jane Pfister

Dividing out tasks

- Press release and other notifications: Judy will draft a press release and send to the group to review.
- Find a time to present about the grant to Select Board.
- Administrative assistant/Clerk-of-the-Works: Judy will reach out to possible candidate, and we will tighten up the job description.
- Library ASHP and how do we move forward with choosing a vendor
  - Judy Wagner will work on this and see if Gates HVAC wants the job.
  - Judy will communicate with Deb Kern, Sam, the facilities person and Trustees at the library
  - Reminder that Ben Weil suggested a need for a door or curtain to the office to keep heat in that room.
  - Another vendor might be Mike Hubbard, if they can give us a bid in a time limit.
- Incentive for hybrid police vehicle: Susan will check in with Andrea about this.
- NES
  - Procurement process likely: Andrea Wood at FRCOG can assist. There is \$2,500 in a technical assistance grant with the FRCOG that will cover her time.
  - Jim V. will draft scope of work for:
    - Heat recovery ventilators and thermostatic valves
    - Replacing pneumatic system

Updates:

META grant application update. Judy Wagner explained that we scanned where we could use a small grant. We decided to apply for an ASHRAE 2 (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) audit of the Highway Department, with a request for \$9,000. Bart Bales walked through with Jim and had some initial ideas, but we want to wait for the full audit if the grant comes through.

- Hazard mitigation (Alex): The zoom meeting with FRCOG was interrupted by a storm. We talked about the need for a shelter on this side of the river, in case a storm impacted the bridge. Right now it is PVRs. We can submit comments to Judy and Alex who will compile. Judy said Helena is doing some great things with farms as part of sustainability planning. The process will not be over till 2021. Judy will send out notes about what we should share from

the Energy Committee end of this week. This plan makes us eligible for state funds, like for culverts.

- Earthlight's electrical work: Susan shared that the savings at NES aren't what we anticipated. The committee discussed this and Jim made a motion to put further electrical work by Earthlight on hold until we get a satisfactory explanation of why electrical savings are a fraction of what Earthlight had estimated for NES. Judy seconded and vote on motion was unanimous. Susan will reach out to Andrea Llamas for guidance.
- Electric aggregation sign ups
  - Of the 1,347 households in Northfield, 304 or 22.6% of households chose to opt out. Only 9 people in town opted up for + 25%
  - We were notified in August 24 that there will be a slight increase in 36 month contract. Andrew wants to make sure Dynegy communicates that.
  - Susan will spot check with people to see if their bill is correct
- Feedback to Green Communities: Susan will work on this.
- Other items that have come up
  - We may meet again October 6 if that works for everyone once we have heard from Green Communities about a green light for moving forward.