

Northfield Energy Committee

Meeting Notes for March 12, 2020

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. The Committee reviewed and approved February 25, 2020 meeting minutes with a suggested changes.

Preparing for Green Communities Grant application and creating a plan for each of these possible projects and Review of EMCOR and installer data

Susan O'Connor provided a summary of status of grant preparation. A first draft of the narrative for all possible projects is complete. However, EMCOR, the company that was preparing the audits for Northfield Elementary School has provided only project cost projections, and has stated they will not be able to provide the analysis required by the grant in time (e.g. estimated energy savings, cost savings, payback period, and incentives). Luckily, an installer company is willing to do a school walk-through on Friday, March 13 and give us numbers we need. FRCOG and our DOER regional coordinator indicated that many western MA towns are having trouble getting audits done in the time frame available. Once we receive the numbers, we will work with FRCOG staff and Ben Weil from Clean Energy Extension to make sure we are selecting competitive strategies that are thoughtfully sequenced. We will meet with NES staff and Building Committee for their input. The Select Board won't be meeting again before the grant goes in on March 25, so Susan presented to them and they approved the draft plan on March 9.

Alex asked about HRVs. They will be ceiling mounted. There are 12 over 2 windows. Judy reached out to Historical Commission and they said there was no requirement for NES exterior management. Carol Lebo, chair would want to be involved as we get to the process.

- Northfield Elementary School (up to \$185,000)/
 - Changing from pneumatic to thermostatic controls
 - Variable frequency drives for 3 heating zone pumps
 - Outdoor reset controller
 - Demand control ventilation and heat recovery ventilators (HRV)
 - Air source heat pumps (ASHP)
- Dickinson Library: ASHP for library office so whole system isn't on when staff are working before library opens. (\$5,000),
- Clerk-of-works (\$5,000)
- Vehicles

- Susan O'Connor and Judy Wagner met with Police Chief Leighton on March 4. He already heard in a meeting of Police Chiefs that the Ford hybrids were working well. Chief Leighton will request that Town Meeting replace a 2014 Ford Explorer that gets 12 mpg with a standard hybrid SUV all-wheel drive that can get 24 mpg on highway. Green Communities will submit for \$5,000 that offsets cost of the hybrid. Could Andrew stand and support the idea of moving to a hybrid fleet at Town Meeting? (\$5,000)
- Develop an anti-idling education outreach effort using the Idle box toolkit and anti-idling signs. (\$500)
- Motion: Judy moves that the Energy Committee accept the draft Green Community Strategies, with final decisions to be made when audit numbers are in from the installing company. Jim seconded. Unanimous.

Updates

- Aggregation meeting on March 26: Susan will let committee know if the meeting is cancelled. Colonial Power needs to discuss with towns the changes DPU is requiring, which includes more detailed plans for community education.
- Municipal Vulnerability Project (MVP) on February 27: Alyssa LaRose from FRCOG ran the meeting. People wanted more conversation about public health. There used to be overnight facilities because of nuclear plant. Fire Chief is the point person. Talked about road clearing, culverts, power supply. The March 27 meeting was cancelled.
- Other updates
 - Microgrid grant. Microgrids are a group Andrew Vernon attended a meeting on March 10 at FRCOG. We have to be an MVP community to apply for the microgrid grant. It is due March 31 and awards in May.
 - What could we address? Wastewater treatment, water, safety building (not far enough along), grocery store, emergency shelter.
 - We would need a team and other teams have public/private team.
 - We will leave materials for Andrea, and see if she has heard about this or thought about it. It may be more an opportunity for the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.