

Energy Committee

June 20, 2017

Present: Collin Cheek, Lynn Hansell, Susan O'Connor, Annie Chappell, Steve Roberto

Susan O'Connor called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

The meeting began with a review of the May 16 meeting minutes and Lynn made a motion to accept the minutes with two changes: adding in Paul Boushell's name and correcting the spelling of Collin's name. Steve seconded. Susan will turn in the corrected minutes.

Updates

Library and contract with Bart Bayles.

Steve reported that he gave the \$350 invoice to Paul Boushell, Interim Town Administrator, but he left before action could be taken on the invoice. Steve did find out that the \$5,500 for the library study is in a reserve fund, so it is unaffected by a July 1 deadline. Steve hasn't heard from Bart Bayles at all this month, either the report from the library site visit, nor a draft contract for the group to review. The committee discussed next steps and it was decided that Steve should let Bart know that we would like the report and draft contract, with dates specifying which dates will be completed in what time frame by July 14. This will provide us with time to read it prior to our July 18 meeting for discussion.

Update on May 30 School Building and Grounds Committee Meeting .

Lynn attended the meeting, along with Tim Brandl and Janice Kurkoski. She provided the group with a re-cap of the meeting with CEE and about the META grant application to be able to do an audit. The members of the Building and Grounds Committee are in agreement that it will be good to work on energy efficiencies in the school buildings and were glad to hear about the walk-through planned for June 12. Lynn, Janice and Tim needed to clarify that Jim Barry said that a four-town collaboration would be an acceptable way to move forward, without need for a revision of the formula for the school district.

Outreach for 7th member of the Energy Committee

The group discussed what kind of person would make sense to add to the group as we head into a major effort to work on schools' energy efficiency. We agreed that it would be good to have someone involved with the schools and/or someone with awareness of making buildings more energy efficient. We decided to do some outreach by creating an invitation that asks for a volunteer interested in helping schools become more energy efficient, save tax dollars, and contribute to environmental action. Annie will draft an article for the Northfield Newsletter that includes the invitation, as well as a thanks to Tim Brandl and others who made the school walk-through possible. She will send it out for comments, and when it is complete, submit it to the newsletter and post the invitation for a volunteer to Next Door. In the meantime, members will check with a few people to check on preliminary interest. We may invite those interested to the August meeting.

- Lynn will reach out to Nolan Kittfield

- Collin will reach out to Eric Oakes
- Annie will reach out to Mike LaBombard

Someone to attend PLAN meeting on Governor Baker and fracked gas position

Susan asked if someone could attend the PLAN meeting on June 29 at 6 p.m in Northampton. Collin and Steve both said they might be able to do this, so Susan will let them know when the location is determined.

June 12 walk-through in schools and next steps

Committee members thanked Annie for the well-organized and complete notes from the school walk-through. We decided that we would start by reviewing the ideas that CEC generated for Northfield Elementary School and the High school. People asked clarifying questions and also added some resource ideas and suggestions:

- We decided that we should develop a set of guiding principles that will help us in making decisions. We agree that one of the key principles will be that we should move toward renewables as much as possible.
- Collin suggested that we add this to the guiding principles: that we make decisions that will also insure care about air quality. He is willing
- Mohawk has a pellet boiler, so if we decide to go that direction for NES, we should contact someone there to see what they learned from the process and how the community feels about it.
- Glycol is a costly and corrosive thing to use, and we should replace that whenever possible.
- Smith Vocation has a natural gas turbine, and we could check in about that.
- Collin suggested that we could seal attics that need more insulation, or remove completely the old insulation.
- Question: we talked about the idea of solar for the PVRs parking lot. What about the roof?
- Collin doesn't think ground source heat pumps are a good idea because can't keep up with really cold temperatures.

DRAFT Agenda Items for July 18 Meeting (please email Susan with additional items)

Review and approve minutes

Review report and contract from Bart Bayles

Feedback on outreach for 7th committee member and creating orientation packet

Updates on school effort

Collin presents an overview of air quality issues (20 minutes with Q+A)

Develop DRAFT Guiding Principles

Explore idea of September 19 meeting with all 4 towns and other stakeholders