

## **Energy Minutes 4.16.19**

Meeting called to order 6:02pm

Attending: Andrew Vernon, Alex Strysky, Susan O'Connor, Annie Chappell, Judy Wagner.

Minutes from March 19, 2019 unanimously accepted.

### **1. Alex/ Re: Our need for a Town Energy plan.**

Alex reviewed energy policies from other towns, including Cambridge and Amherst. These towns have comprehensive plans with specific steps for energy upgrades in Town Buildings. Alex also saw some examples of documents for meeting energy goals in various towns. SO suggested that we look at upcoming opportunities to come up with a town Energy Plan with action steps for our committee and other Town groups where applicable.

JW mentioned a NY Times article about Global Warming and how to address the work we need to do at various levels to address this. Policy ideas may include issues of health and safety and financial costs and benefits of any plan. SO recommends a phase of planning in the fall to help us come up with positive messages, manageable tasks and achievable goals. AS reminded us that we should review the Energy Saving ideas from the Green Communities grant during this planning process, along with data from the Annual Report. AV mentions that there was some negative blowback from Trustees at the library re: our proposed changes due to unintended consequences of earlier work. SO comments that maybe we need a way to establish energy-related awareness and consistency and to have a town-wide workshop with the chairs of the various committees. Andrea Llamas could help facilitate such a meeting. AS adds that our goals for a policy plan should include financial saving and incentives. SO includes that our upcoming event could include some of our new message through education and outreach.

### **2. Education and Outreach EVENT**

Dates discussion includes possible June dates, but SO suggests that September looks like a better time because we would all be here, and have more time to plan. Two possible dates include Saturday 9.7 or 9.14

The event should include EDUCATION/MESSAGE/FUN!

\* Kids activities should include hands-on events. Some ideas: solar calculator problems to solve, solar leaf prints, and science fair type displays.



- \* Adult activities: tour of upgrades to Library, Town Hall, NES. AV suggests that our tour should have very tangible displays, like a hole cut in a door that represents air leakage. Jim Toth may be able to join us and help with this part of our program.
- \* Raffle and passport for visiting our sites: Maybe this would include a question and answer kind of treasure hunt. Raffle items should be energy-related, eg: solar lanterns.

### **TO DO:**

Slide show of our work at the schools/ AV  
 Hands-on activities at NES for kids and adults  
 Library activities and music concert/ SO  
 Teen panel/ JW  
 Tour of Town Hall/ AC  
 Passport/treasure hunt/raffle/ AC  
 Solar demo/ Clair and John  
 Multiple Events planning/ AS

### **3. Aggregation**

SO attended the FRCOG 4.11 Aggregation meeting. They discussed how to talk with town residents about it. As a town we need to decide what are our options before 6.13 when all 13 towns meet with Colonial Power Group with pricing and options. They want all towns to go in a unified way on the BASIC offer and what options we opt for as a town. Then we take those options to our Select Board.

#### **OPTIONS:**

**Basic Utility Grade:** has more green-sourced electricity than Eversource and tends to be less expensive.

#### **5% Extra Green-sourced**

% **Green-sourced** that is local or regional

**100% Green-sourced** (like Greenfield) but includes energy from anywhere, such as Texas Wind

One plan might include a DEFAULT Option that contains more Green-sourced. Then residents could OPT UP or OPT DOWN.

SO suggests that we need to survey the residents to see what their take is on these options before we put in the final bid. We could have a one-page survey on Survey Monkey on Next Door, and also have a one page survey at Town Meeting.

### **4. Follow-ups**

- \* State of Our Town Dinner presentation/ SO



Susan's presentation about Green Communities accomplishment went very well. We were approached by Bill Llewelyn who has signed up with a company to install a large solar array on his property that is agriculture-friendly and are designed to allow crops to continue to grow. This is a pilot program, and the company wants to give some of the excess electricity to our Town. Could we use this at the Schools? Susan will check in with Clean Energy Extension about what they know and with the town.

We need to do more investigation on this.

- \* De-stratification fans are in at PVRS, and at NES. Yet to complete at NES: Monoglass insulation in the North bldg.

- \* Solar at PVRS and NES/ JW: We need to do more research. Don Simms has offered 2 names of contractors who may help us on this. One is an energy engineer who works with MassSAVE, William Womeldorf.

SO notes that we do have a technical assistance grant from FRCOG and they may be able to help. They can provide support with the Green Communities Grant Application and Annual Report as well as MEI data. We need a 2-year contract with the FRCOG for the \$9,500 available to us.

**Next Meeting Date: Tuesday May 14th.**

Meeting adjourned 8:02pm