

## **Energy Committee meeting 10.15.19**

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

Meeting called to order 6:02pm

Meeting minutes from 8.20 were approved as amended. Minutes from 9.24 were approved

### **1. Updates.**

Presentation to School Committee about our ongoing energy upgrades: Susan, Alex and Andrew attended, as well as Janice Kurkowski and Jim Toth.

The School Committee Chair had invited the Energy Committee to present. However, no agenda had been posted, and we were not on the agenda when we arrived. However, the Superintendent invited us to use his report time to still present. We were able to show a revised slide presentation including some images from the Warwick School. This included a slide about the electrical work and potential savings, and the reception by the committee was positive. Susan noted that we would be continuing our work with an upcoming Green Communities grant, if awarded, and that the work might include ASHPs for NES.

NOTE: Tim Brandl has left his position as buildings manager for the schools. No one has replaced him yet. As we move ahead with work from Earthlight, we will stay in touch with Jon Scagel.

NOTE: There will be a webinar on efficiency in rural schools on 10.22 from 3-4pm.

Alex raises the question about who will be in the loop as we continue to work on efficiency in the schools. This group may include the School Committee and Buildings Committee, but Judy suggests that we should map out our goals and process early and not leave the planning process wide open to distraction.

NOTE: Ben Weil will be able to work with us and is willing to attend our next meeting, now scheduled for Nov. 19th. We need to prepare a list of questions prior to our meeting with him.

**2. Annual report for MEI data:** Susan will meet with Alyssa LaRose from FRCOG to go over our data. Annie will start gathering vehicle info and will help with other MEI data collection (solar on Town Hall).

**3. Eversource/Earthlight:** Marc Riel and his son, Marc Riel, Jr. met with our committee to go over their recommendations for the schools and other Town buildings. Lighting changes will include new LED lamps and ballasts. Judy O'Brien from OWL is creating the electrical job plan for NES.

Susan mentions that we need to be very clear about what Earthlight is proposing and we need to have the language IN PRINT so there are no questions about products. We need to ask Earthlight to spec the products, the cost, and expected savings.

Judy O'Brien suggests we opt for dimmable lights with rheostats.

Does this make sense? Earthlight feels that sensors are expensive and unnecessary. What is the difference between motion and occupancy sensors?

Should we add features that take us beyond a four-year payback (this would mean we would be borrowing at that point, instead of giving up our savings to pay Eversource for the upgrades). We feel that this is not our best option.

NOTE: If we can approve this work with Earthlight, the work could be done over the Christmas break. HVAC controls for PVRs: Earthlight recommends some upgrades in this area.

Is there a contract with a timeline for this work?

### **7pm PHONE call with Marc Riel Jr.**

1. Re: ballasts and math calculations for energy use/savings: Where is this located in the report?



Philips LED lamps and ballast are a dual-use project. Earthlight proposes UL Type C to replace ballasts with new LED drivers. They include a 5-year warranty. This should be added in writing.

AV asks if LED tubes and other listed materials have any endorsement for quality.

JW explains that we need to let the School Committee and Select Board know why we are including these products/choices.

Marc will clarify this in the document.

JW asks for costs to reflect the entire system proposed, so that it will be a turnkey operation.

SO mentions that we will need to go through the Select Board for approval and that we should have all the pertinent information from Earthlight by that meeting, (scheduled for October 22nd?).

2. Sensors: Marc explains the controls for lighting will include Standard Occupancy Sensors on the wall or ceiling that switch on or off with motion. Controls CAN be more sophisticated to include daylight harvest, or we could opt for occupancy sensors that are programmable, but Marc says that the proposed lighting system is efficient, and these add-ons are expensive and not much more of an improvement for the cost.

3. Susan asks about our next steps with Earthlight: Do we need a contract? What format will we be presenting to the Select Board? Also, will this include the proposed 16-unit vapor barriers/HVAC upgrades for PVRs? What are the costs and savings for this upgrade? Could this work be completed over Christmas??

Marc: Yes. The work could be done over the Christmas break, or sooner. The quote is \$110,000. Marc suggests that the savings will be very good due to increased efficiency. The contractor for this work would be EMCOR.

JW requests that we have that information in our documents, with a brief summary for explanation of timeline, costs and savings.

**MOTION:** SO moves that we approve the recommended lighting and electrical upgrades at NES and PVRs by Earthlight to present to the Select Board for approval, including their preferred contractor. The projects include: high performance lighting, faucet aerators and spray valves, occupancy sensors. This would be PHASE I of the electrical projects that are financed through 0-interest loans through Eversource.

JW seconds, all approve.

NOTE: JW will inform Kathy Wright (Building Committee) about this proposal. She reiterates that we need to specify that this job will NOT interfere with the planned work by the Building Committee.

### **3. September 14th Event - recap**

The adult program was strong, and well received. This includes a great power point presentation by AV. The comments from JO Comerford and Paul Mark were encouraging and endorse all the work we do. Joanne Bisette from DOER was positive and impressed and she is a great connection for us.

There was no reporter from the Recorder. We will need to ensure a more certain level of press coverage for the future.

SO notes that the School Committee members who attended were very positive and encouraging. They made a note of saying that they would make every effort to include us in all decisions about the consideration for solar for the schools.

Where can we improve? Outreach and Press, Turnout, Focus on adults, work with kids in a different venue. JW reminds us to keep the question in mind about who are we trying to reach, and why?

NOTE: we will send the power point to Sandra to post on the Town website.

AV will post it on the Next-Door site.

SO has spoken with FRCOG and thinks that curriculum elements in the schools would be a good way to reach communities about energy savings and all the issues that relate to energy use.

#### **4. ? s for Ben Weil/ CEE**

ASHPs do not provide air exchange, simply heating and cooling. How would we ensure ventilation if we replace current heating units?

PHASE II with Eversource: Should we consider any of the proposed upgrades in our GC grant? We should review the list of GC funded projects to make sure that we know what is accepted and do-able.

? What is the sequencing for ASHPs and electrical upgrades/interface?

? What is the best scenario for the boiler replacement, given the other proposed upgrades?

? Where does solar come in, and how can we make it truly sustainable?

? What is the best plan for working with the Building Committee on boiler and pneumatics replacement?

**Next meeting November 19th**

Meeting adjourned 8pm.