

MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2010

5:30 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

Present: Beth Moser, Diego Gutierrez, Chris Vlcek, Nick Stanton, Alana Chernila, Jenn Bailly, Brandee Nelson, Nancy Lee Rogers

- I. Call to Order. By Chris Vlcek at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Review and Approve Minutes of Last Meeting Motion made to table minutes to next meeting by Alana Chernila, 2nd by Nick Stanton. 6-0
- III. Green Communities & Stretch Code

- a. Brochure – Nick and Beth handed out concepts for the brochure. The committee was emailed the brochure for the Town of Florida. We reviewed each. We agreed the intent of the brochure is to educate a general audience. How will we meet the needs of educating other parties – likely through targeted meetings.

We had a discussion on green intent, commitment to future, economic incentives, what have other communities done with grant monies; We agreed to research what other green communities/stretch code communities have done; each person was assigned a community to contact – Nick, North Adams; Alana – Becket; Chris – Lenox; Nancy – Pittsfield, Diego – Willamstown; Brandee – Northampton. We can send

information to Jenn for compilation and/or discuss at next meeting. We agreed that we should ask a uniform group of questions:

- What energy savings has been seen in the community?
- How much in grant funds have been awarded/applied for, and how will it be used?
- What “green” programs are in the planning phase and are they to benefit public or private interests?
- What process did the community undergo to pass the stretch code and get green community designation?

Ways to contact: via Town Hall; check website for Energy Committee; call selectmen.

For the brochure: Decided it should be short/exciting – List out communities that are green, discuss the work that is being done right now in Great Barrington, not that the community needs to take action to bring the final result. Alana will write up her thoughts and send to Beth. Need to list the 5 criteria and their current status, but note one important step left... gear to information to the public information meeting and regular annual town meeting (We need to get dates on these).

Nick and Beth will work to merge brochures with committees comments and have ready at next meeting. Goal is to have brochure for meeting. Bill Cook said he would design brochure.

Have brochure ready for January. Review draft at next meeting

- b. Media outreach planning – Berkshire Record, WSBS – Avi Dresner, Let’s Talk, Build It Green Sat 9:30 Chris Lee and John Coleman, Contractors Corner - Chris Sheilds of Dresser Hull; WBCR – Earth Radio; Charlie Dietz – WAMC – Berkshire Story; Jenny Clark – <http://gbmyturn.com>; Eileen Mooney – The Newsletter (Housatonic)
Library presentation – Diego is in Friends of the Library and can coordinate that venue

Not ready to release information to the media - just find contacts at this point

Beth has some bulletin boards that can be used for display. She will bring to next meeting

Jenn will contact Jim Barry to see if the Green Community state graphic is available for our use.

Other venues – Community Center, Rotary, CTSB, Steve Born/Nick Diller, PSAs, maybe Triplex, Shoppers Guide – These all have mixed audience

Letters to the editors – by builders, residents

People who will speak at public meeting – already meeting stretch code

Print media and radio

Talking points to be developed out of brochure exercise.

- c. Informational event(s) planning – liaison with Stockbridge Laura Dubester, Brandee will call and get info back to committee.

Focus the technical information at the meeting for builders and interested public. Use building supply networks to reach builders (Herringtons, DeVries) Technical information meeting to be prepared and given by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) and Center for Ecological Technology (CET). Jenn will contact them and get information on what the presentation will consist of, when, and whether we have any input into meeting.

A 2nd general public information meeting in Great Barrington geared toward warrant, could be tacked on to one of the regular Selectman's meetings – closer to Town meeting.

- d. Town website – green pages. Ideas: Green page section - highly visual photos of what has been going on, e.g. recyclers, photovoltaic (PV) garbage cans, Firehouse PV panels, Middle School, paperless Town Hall. Need to get list. Can we quantify this monetarily?

Link to Town website or use available space. Nick has ttgb page and likes to make web pages. Diego and Nancy can help with photos.

Jenn needs pdfs for ease of posting. Emailed to her. Jenn to check website capacity and requirements for Town Hall webpage.

Can get info on the art of recycling project

We agreed this is a longer term side project.

- e. Schedule - Special Town Meeting will be held end January to mid-March (for broadband but can be used for other agenda items); we discussed there is no rush needed in passing the stretch code to meet grant cycle; could use

meeting to make an informational flier available at the entry. Depends on BRPC meeting schedule.

- IV. Discussion – Facilities Review - Jenn has a list. Brandee to see what Jenn has sent already. Use for evaluating energy reduction plan.

Other discussion – Beth knows a Simons Rock College student interested in participating. Beth will invite.

Chris doesn't want committee to lose vision on larger vision, e.g. hydro power, wind power, etc. Alana gets much input – she will share. Everyone has drivers and should share – Discussed finding a balance of broader agenda items and staying on track with short term goals.

- V. Next Meeting Date- Possible Agenda Items. Thursday 12/16 at 5:30

- VI. Adjournment. Motion made Nick, Alana 2nd, 7-0

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandee Nelson