

MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010

5:30 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

I. Call to Order. Margret Fetzer (SRC Student), Beth Moser, Chris Vlcek, Nick Stanton, Diego Gutierrez, Alana Chernila, Brandee Nelson, Nancy Rogers

II. Review and Approve Minutes of Meeting on 11/10/10 and 11/30/10 – Alana motion to approve minutes from 11/10 and 11/30 as corrected, 2nd by Beth Moser; unanimous

Nancy requested that people respond to each other's emails to confirm receipt on info.

III. Green Communities & Stretch Code – update from 11/30/10 meeting

- a. Brochure – Beth and Nick have copies of what they have come up with. Bill Cooke put materials in a brochure program. Committee worked through language of brochure to get to an acceptable form. Beth will revise it and email a pdf. Comments can be returned to her. Diego will make a sketch logo.

Green Communities Info –

Diego went to a Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) 12/9/10 meeting on Green Communities – West Stockbridge, Lee, Florida, Becket, Lenox, New Marlborough, Great Barrington were present. 14 communities have received assistance from BRPC – Pittsfield, Lenox and Becket were awarded funds and designated Green Communities. Each town spoke of their experience.

MassEnergy Insight seems to be a positive tool except for smaller towns. More technical assistance may be needed. Challenges faced by other communities in getting Green Community designation: by right zoning (not applicable for Great Barrington), energy reduction plan, stretch code – Lee said that misinformation got out and destroyed chance of passage. Keep ahead of information. Costs are important. Green Communities have been going to the stretch code standard.

Next meeting to be held soon. Diego is getting more information.

Need to get a handle on costs. “MA Stretch Code Improvement – Cash Flow” is a chart prepared by the State indicating that for a Baseline Home of 2672sf, the incremental improvements to meet the stretch code, including the rater's fee cost \$2,156 or about \$1 per square foot. But after the rater's fee rebate, and because of the annual energy savings, there is actually a net positive cash flow on a 30yr mortgage of about \$390/yr.

Other arguments for the stretch code include: It's a small step in the right direction; No tax increase; It's an opportunity to receive an energy audit (cost is rebated); It's an update to the Energy Code that's coming in a few years.

Other communities have suggested that Building Inspector participation is very important. Need to make sure there is support from Town.

Town of Lexington has great information, for more info, see BuildABetterFuture.org. Needed 9 months to get passed. Energy Committee got very specific commitment from their Town officials by asking: "Will you take a leadership role in getting Stretch Code passed?" They suggested we do the same.

Lenox very positive and forward thinking. Town is very supportive.

We need to get more information out to the public on energy improvements. CET offers a free audit, air sealing and other financing. Use this as an informational spring board. Chuck McNeil from CET to speak to builders. Chris to contact Jim Barry from DOER.

Get all the committees and clubs around to be active participants.

- b. Media outreach planning – update and finalize brochure. Beth completing this task.
- c. Informational event(s) planning – liaison with Stockbridge
- d. Town website – green pages – Jenn can add a green link. Collect things for the webpage. Costs, maps of communities, summary of DOER information. Each person on the committee will bring information in support of stretch code/energy committee for construction of a webpage. Nick will work on tiny fiscal analysis.
- e. Schedule -
 - Select Board Mtng get leadership commitment (1/24/11)
 - Special Town Meeting is 2/9 (brochure ready at that time)
 - BRPC Builders Stockbridge/GB Mtng (March) – BKN follow up
 - Informational Meeting (April)
 - Annual Town Meeting (5/2/11)

IV. Discussion – Facilities Review

V. Next Meeting Date- Possible Agenda Items – Final review of brochure, web site development, New England Climate Summer; Next meeting is Thursday January 20, 2010 at 5:30 pm.

VI. Adjournment. Diego made a motion to adjourn, Alana 2nd. Meeting ended at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandee Nelson
1/21/10