

MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2011

1:00 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

- I. Call to Order. 1:03 Present: Alana Chernila, Beth Moser, Chris Vlcek, Brandee Nelson, Jenn Bailly, Joe Sokul, Kevin O'Donnell, Nancy Rogers
- II. Review and Approve Minutes of Meeting 5/18/11; motion by Beth; 2nd by Alana. Voted - unanimous
- III. Proposed Energy Committee review policy for all capital improvements involving energy consumption – Committee expressed interest to Kevin and Joe encourage capital expenditures with energy impacts to be reviewed by and receive recommendation on energy efficiency in purchasing from the Committee. Kevin references upcoming projects in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - the document that lays out spending priorities for the next several years. Joe welcomes help to have needed repairs done with energy efficiency in mind.

Meeting jointly with Finance Committee and Select Board on August 15 at 6 pm at Firehouse on meeting on fiscal year 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 – Energy Committee should attend to understand upcoming CIP projects.

For fiscal year 2012 plan work for Ramsdell library should be energy efficient. Other projects where energy efficiency may come into play: Dewey school repairs; Window replacements in 2014; new boiler at highway garage in 2012/2013, and 6 pump stations Fiscal 2014 has \$3million budget for upgrades. Boiler will be energy efficient and replacement is in response CET audits from last year.

Tighe and Bond is doing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrade and is looking at energy efficiency. Town is doing a comprehensive WWTP Management plan looking at plant, pump station. Heating plant at WWTP upgraded – 70-75% efficiency range. Tighe and Bond reports and meets with Town periodically – energy committee could participate.

Joe would like to see if Building Management Systems could be used at other Town buildings.

CIP is available on line.

Resolution for committee outlining committee's objectives was prepared. No need to revisit with Town.

IV. Green Communities Designation Criteria #3: Energy Reduction Plan(ERP)

- a. Reference to Strategy in BRPC Green Communities Plan – Actions outlined – need collaborative process with Town with continuous feedback with Town department heads. All town buildings and maintenance fall to Joe Sokul.
- b. Review status of implementation of 2010 CET Audit recommendations. Lighting/ballast replaced as a result of Nat Grid/CET. Gas end improvements not made – Senior Center and Police Station are heated with oil – Police Station could be converted to natural gas but the oil boiler is not that old – Gas company suggested not replacing until end of useful life. No gas in Housatonic. Committee should get a map of Berkshire Gas service area. Other improvements such as weatherization, vending misers, storm windows and insulation not completed yet. Kevin says they can update summary sheet on audit so committee doesn't duplicate recommendations.

Mason Library lighting recently recontrolled and readjusted system to automatically set and program to reduce light usage. Prism did audit for Nat Grid and recommended daylighting strategies for library.

Buildings have programmable thermostats.

- c. Energy use assessment & implementation strategy – discuss possible consultant on demand, and participation of each Town Department Head

Committee thinks that energy consultant may need to be involved to do audits in an on demand capacity. Otis has hired Chris Vreeland. Town not sure, not in budget this year.

No facilities improvements until 2014. CIP for fiscal 2012 is just pipes in the ground. Facilities on the drawing board are Ramsdell, WWTP, and highway garage.

Energy committee would need to participate in budget process.

Pursue WWTP audit through National Grid.

CIP equipment purchases. Joe knows heavy vehicles are exempt. Looking at purchasing propane mowers – will be taking bids this year. Looking at CNG (propane) station. Mowing – 140 acres plus 7 cemeteries to mow and maintain. Composting clippings at cemeteries on a 3 yr cycle. Sludge is composted from WWTP.

Joe will be our contact for facilities related questions.

- d. Mass EnergyInsight – authorization for GBEC member access – Jenn contacted MassEnergyInsight and can add a committee member to access.
- e. Creation of ERP from (c) above and alternative energy strategy
Alternative energy policy may be needed to achieve energy reduction plan. What is Town thought? No official policy. See BRPC maps already generated on alternative energy generation.

Solar options – Senior Center potentially a candidate but roof is structurally inadequate. Joe thinks he can find reports from this project.

Getting an intern for helping with ERP. Similar to Lenox. Kevin will see if there are any opportunities.

Note from Joe: Diesel Expenditure
Fall 2010 - 2100 gal \$6,300 (calculates to \$3/gallon)
Spring 2011 - 2700 gal \$10,500 (calculates to \$3.89/gallon)

- V. Set next meeting date and potential agenda items 7/20/11 – 6 pm
- VI. Adjournment at 2:30 p.m. Moved by Chris- 2nd by Brandee; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandee Nelson

