

MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

6:00 P.M.

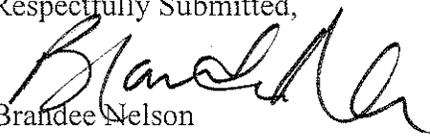
GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

- I. Call to Order. 6:05 pm
- II. Review and Approve Minutes of Meeting 8/2/11 – Beth moved, Alana 2<sup>nd</sup>, Diego and Nancy abstain. Motion passed.
- III. Decision on RFQ or RFP for energy consultant or energy audits - awaiting response from Kevin
  - a) once we have a direction, the request needs to be written and published – Chris reviewed the criteria in RFQ with Committee. Committee supports.
  - b) Kevin is checking on conformance with the Town's procurement policy. Chris will check in with Kevin again.
- IV. Town Liaison – Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) Update
  - a) WWTP National Grid audit set for September 7<sup>th</sup> – Brandee is going. Committee may want a tour - possibly an Energy open house at a future date may be appropriate.
  - b) Gas & diesel use: thoughts on involving employees – Committee wishes to engage Joe Sokul and the Chiefs; need to find out status of police vehicles with relation to whether or not they need to idle or run continuously; Brandee will review information on vehicle usage Jenn sent and email to Committee. Committee will assess where professional organizations weighing in on energy efficiency in operations.
  - c) Street lights - possible to shut some off after certain hours?, Main Streets liaison for LEDs; Committee wonders if some can ore should go out intermittently. Chris will look at International Dark Sky Association and Illumination Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) information on standards. Committee discussed potential for LEDs for street lighting. Technology is understood to be changing on LEDs. Brandee to email Sean at National Grid about accounts and modification to operations. Committee may draft letter to Select Board.

- d) Beth found Town info on green fleets. She will research and get back to us.
- V. Report on FY2011 (boiler, vehicle) and FY2012 projects and update on Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Meeting outcome – Diego attended CIP meeting on 8/15. Joe Sokul indicated many capital improvements are being delayed due to low funding or missed grant opportunities. For example, Ramsdell Library needs new furnace but it may be delayed and is included in the major upgrades scheduled at a later date. CIP will have to change as energy reduction plan is implemented.
- VI. Education & Outreach
  - a) Greenpages & possible school projects – Nancy agreed to coordinate school outreach opportunities. Greenpages need to be updated. Greenagers may be a good resources. Beth will get in touch with Greenages and Rail Road Street Youth Project on things they could assist us with such as photos or web design. Diego will check in on Youth Environment Summit (YES) program in the spring.
  - b) Energy use representation project – Chris will try and develop with the high school.
  - c) Stretch Code seminar for the fall? (Note: Stretch Code takes effect January 1, 2012) We could facilitate for CET if they plan on having.
- VII. Discussion on South Egremont Energy project and process – PV panels in Egremont – what grant was had? Brandee to ask.
- VIII. New Business:
  - a) Update from Alana – She met with the Berkshire Co-op sustainability group. They want to outreach into the town. They would like to cooperate with Energy Committee activities and Michele DeSimone is interested in applying to be on the committee. Fred Schlicker at (MCAN) Massachusetts Climate Action Network could transfer designation as an MCAN Chapter to this committee which would provide a network and provide access to grants. MCAN can be a resource similar to DOER. Beth moved that Alana, on behalf of the Committee, talk to Fred about transferring MCAN to the Energy Committee; Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>; unanimous.
  - b) Beth working narrative on mission statement for committee based on charter for committee.
- IX. Set next meeting date and potential agenda items – Tent 22<sup>nd</sup> 6 pm. Brandee will email Jenn.
- X. Adjournment. Alana moved, and Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>; passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Brandee Nelson

