

MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2011

5:45 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON

- I. Call to Order at 6:50 pm. Present: Nancy Rogers, Diego Gutierrez, Beth Moser, Ryan Caruso, Chris Vlcek, Jenn Bailly, Michele DiSimone, Brandee Nelson.
- II. Approval of Minutes from November 15, 2011 Meeting – Jenn requested attendance be added to the minutes; Beth moved to approve as amended; Michele – 2nd. All in favor except Brandee and Ryan, who abstained since they were not present and Ryan not yet member.
- III. Energy Consultant RFP – Discussion of status and upcoming tasks – An update on the schedule for consultant response and selection was made. Proposals due 1/5/12 at 2 pm. 4 board members, Chris, Diego, Ryan and Brandee, agreed to work with Mr Sokul and Mr. O'Donnell to select a consultant in the required timeframe.

Timeline: 1/5/12 proposals due, contract by February 1, 2012. 8 week work period.
- IV. Building Walk Thru Summary – Update/discuss – Committee walk thrus are continuing. Materials will be provided to the consultant once selected. Energy Committee is working to have all walkthrough summaries completed by the end of January.
- V. Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) - Discussion of schedule for coming quarter ERP was made. No dates from DOER yet.
- VI. Dark Sky Initiative – Discussion – Michele looked into the Dark Sky program. We may reduce energy by reducing street lighting. Jenn said Harry will request a map of utility poles from National Grid. Diego noted objective of Dark Sky is different than energy reduction.

Energy reduction strategies:

Street light should be evaluated to propose strategic reduction and/or modification of bulbs – Brandee will contact committee members for input.

Fuel consumption – Nancy researched fleet vehicle policies. Many policies do not seem to apply in low temperature/inclimate weather situations. Most policies include anti-idling with exceptions/provisions for vehicles with specialized equipment. Idle-right provided good information – i.e 6 hrs idling=4 gal gas. Havis Inc is a company that performs squad car retrofit; they would be happy to meet with the department heads.

Committee's education effort must clarify the Criteria 4 exemption and Criteria 3 total energy reduction. CIP provides schedule for new vehicle acquisition which is an opportunity to purchase fuel efficient vehicles.

Yearly report to select board should be made in the first quarter of 2012 –to be discussed next meeting.

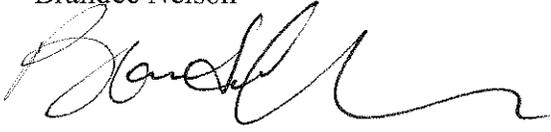
- VII. Town Energy Policy – Discussion – Energy committee may need to consider renewable energy generation requirements both for ERP and as a recommendation to the Select Board as a Town sustainability policy.

Discussed the Planning Board reluctance to set a restrictive policy on solar siting which would potential discourage rather than encourage solar development.

- VIII. Wind Siting Lecture Summary – Brandee attended the wind turbine siting lecture. She noted that the presentation primarily presented a side that suggested wind power does not provide the most “bang for the buck” in our region due to a variety of factors.
- IX. Open Discussion Items – Beth looking into outreach on MassSave audits; sent and email to CET, and is working on an education and outreach campaign. Beth will organize informational meetings to help homeowners increase energy efficiency.
- X. Next Meeting Date- Possible Agenda Items.
Agenda items: yearly report
Need one more committee member – ask around
5:45 pm on 1/18/12
- XI. Adjournment. Diego moved; Michele 2nd; all in favor, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandee Nelson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandee Nelson", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.