

MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY JULY 30, 2013

6:00 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON

I. Call to Order. Present – 6:05 pm Beth Moser, Ryan Caruso, Brandee Nelson, Michele DiSimone, Chris Vlcek, Alana Chernila; Joe Sokul, DPW Superintendent

II. Approval of Minutes from June 12 Meeting – Alana moved to approve, and Beth seconded, all approved

III. Solarize Mass Grants – update

Beth went to 2 select board meetings and advised the town of the committee's concerns that finding a volunteer solar coach may be difficult. Lenox solar coach, Susan May, came to last select board meeting to describe the position and process. She stated the project timeframe is 4 months. In Lenox, the town manager was the municipal rep to handle contracts and budgets, and the solar coach did the community organizing. Residents and businesses can participate and the Town chose an installer from the preapproved list.

Prior to applying for the grant, we need to identify a solar coach through various means.

Town will get back to the energy committee in August on decision to proceed with application which is tentatively due to the Mass Clean Energy Center in September/October.

IV. Great Barrington Fairground – update – table to next meeting

V. Open Discussion Items

Chris and Joe met with Town Manager Jennifer Tabakin and Jim Barry from Department of Energy Resources (DOER) for an update on getting the Green Communities funds released by the State. Joe provided an update on the Green Communities grant. Among the items discussed was the use of a firm such as Guardian for the management and installation of funds; DOER supports the use of firms like Guardian, and wants to get additional detail

from the town so that grant funds can be released. Guardian needs to review our application and plan to understand the scope of work proposed. DOER may allow a change in scope of work if needed, specifically if the Town has already moved ahead independently to complete Energy Reduction Plan items, if sufficient detail is provided in the grant amendment. Joe is working directly with Guardian.

DOER needs detail on payback and lifecycle – need more info:

1. Get Guardian the application and ERP (on website) and ask for a proposal with their budget and turnaround.
2. Send updated application to DOER with Guardian data.
3. Award funds – timing is uncertain

Chris reported DOER (or DEP) has new program coming up: Energy Manager to assist towns with DOER programs in a part-time capacity. Personnel would have experience necessary to carry out energy programming at the town level. A portion of the grant, 10%, can be used for administration or audits.

Joe reported that the ongoing design of sewer plant upgrades by Weston & Sampson, will include an assessment of the potential for heat recovery system to reduce overall energy consumption at the sewer plant.

Other building upgrades currently being planned/undertaken by the Town include:

Ramsdell Library budget includes funds for repairs to windows and insulation
Mason Library updates are being covered by building funds; some exterior changes need HDC approval.

Courthouse repairs are ongoing, including window replacement and HVAC.
Housatonic School will be winterized and mothballed.

Just completed boiler inspection and repairs Town-facility wide.

VI. Next Meeting Date- Possible Agenda Items.

VII. Adjournment was made by Chris, without objection at 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Brandee Nelson