

Green Community Task Force Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2011

Present: Members P.Slattery, J.McQuaid, E.Sund, N. Sullivan, Z. Cutting
Town Liaisons M. Benson, J. Londa

1. M. Benson called the meeting to order at 6:35 presiding for P.Slattery until 7:00 P.M. The minutes for 3/9/2011 were reviewed and approved.
2. J. McQuaid commented that there has been difficulty accessing the website. E.Sund noted that the conversion to a new town website that will be launched on 5/1/2011 may be causing the problem. She will hold off on uploading any new information until then.
3. No new development on recycling at this time.
4. The Board of Health raised concerns over proper channels for approval of the proposed solar site at the landfill. George Emond confirmed through the DEP Solid Waste Bureau that it is acceptable to install a solar field on the capped landfill.
5. Z. Cutting commented on the new solar hot water rebate noting that it was more economical for new construction than retrofitting. He will work with D. Blatt and S. DiCampo to prepare information for the public.
6. E. Sund reported on the feasibility of wind projects noting that 5-6 potential sites have been identified on Town property for 1-3 turbines but more in depth studies are needed. Also a financial partner would be desirable but they usually deal with 50+ MW and ours would only be around 1.5 – 2 MW.
7. M. Benson mentioned that the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission is working with WPI to develop a model of possible energy sources in the region.
8. J. Londa stated that the solar landfill site has been reduced to 18-20 acres possibly lowering the capacity to 1.3 MW. The Selectmen are concerned about an increase in cost to the ratepayers. Until has a 2MW cap on purchasing renewable energy but it's unknown how much of that is already committed. The RFP went out for bid on 3/30/2011. He will hold a pre-bid meeting with J. Breault on 4/14 and bids are due by 2:00 P.M. on 5/5/2011.
9. Until did an energy audit for the T.C. Passios building. Upgrades to lighting and heating could save an estimated \$5,775.00 annually. Until would contribute \$32,000.00 and the Town \$16,000.00 with a payback of 2.8 years.
10. There was a discussion on how various departments could recapture energy savings to be applied to future energy conservation measures.
11. M. Benson noted that Felipe Schwartz reiterated that we couldn't substitute the IEEC for the Stretch Code to become a Green Community. She would keep looking for a different opinion of the criteria before we present it to the fall Town Meeting. There appears to be no penalty to opt out of being a Green Community once accepted.
12. We need to spread the word about zero interest energy loans available to homeowners. Unfortunately they need to spend money to save money on energy cost which could raise their taxes.
13. Next meeting date set for May 2, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McQuaid, Secretary