

**Sustainable Energy Committee – Minutes-draft**  
**Conference Room G - Town Hall**  
**Friday, October 28, 2011**  
**7:45 am – 9:10 am**

**Committee Members Present:**

Christopher Ketchen, Chair  
Suzy Littlefield  
Scott Bender  
Beth DeSombre  
Ellen Korpi  
Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator

Absent: Robert Cooper, Dick Joyce

**Meeting called to order at 7:45 am**

**Citizen's Speak: no one present**

**Minutes: 10/14/11 – approved**

**Voluntary Renewable Energy Program (VREP):** Ms. Korpi reported that the Municipal Light Board approved the reduction of the Voluntary Renewable Energy surcharge from \$0.05 / kWh to \$0.04 /kWh. The MLP will continue to true up the actual cost of the renewable energy REC's at the end of the year, which has been just over \$0.03 in the past 2 years.

**Green Power Communities (GPC)**

**EPA - Municipal Green Power Partner (GPP).** Ms Korpi reported that the first step in trying to achieve the Green Power Community designation is for the municipal government to become a Green Power Partner by purchasing 5% of municipal power from renewable sources. This would support the Town-wide goal approved by Town Meeting to reduce emissions 10% below 2007 levels by 2013, and also support the municipal leadership goal of a 20% reduction in emissions.

Mr. Ketchen addressed how the Town government would meet the renewable surcharge cost of about \$25,000 purchase of VREP, by using the savings from reduced use to purchase renewable. He also reported that at the Intra-board Meeting, last week, Hans Larsen established that the departments are expected to set a flat budget, and any additional expenses will have to come out of energy savings. He added that the Town Hall is under budget for energy use in the current fiscal year, and the next efficiency improvement will be for lighting. Currently, the MLP-garage is the only Town building purchasing renewable energy through the VREP program. Mr. Ketchen agreed to schedule the SEC to meet with the BOS at their meeting on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ms Fairchild recommended that the SEC consider developing a standard policy for municipal buildings to begin purchasing some renewable energy through VREP with a portion of the energy savings from completing an energy audit and necessary energy efficiency improvements.

**Commercial Green Power Partners.** Ms Korpi reported that she is also talking with the real estate brokers and Chamber of Commerce to gain a sense of what they feel the Green Power Community

designation would do for the Town, the “panache”. Babson and Wellesley College both have expressed interest. Anthony Amato from the EPA will also be talking with the Colleges to encourage them to become Green Power Partners

**Residential participation for Green Power Community (GPC) designation:** Ms DeSombre reported that the Wellesley College students working on the Sustainability Project on the triangle area bordered by Central, Weston and Wellesley Ave, are in phase two of their project. Part of their survey of residents will be asking about participation with VREP. Ms Littlefield recommended that the Wellesley Square initiative, chaired by Gig Babson and Barbara Searle, would be interested to know about the project, as there could be some overlap with their work to try to stimulate the commercial sector in this area.

**GPC campaign:** Ms Korpi reported that the MLP is working on updating their website to support VREP and Green Communities initiative, and including some FAQ’s. There will also be a kit of info to share person to person. This will include the VREP registration cards, which are being updated to include a request for an email address.

Ms Littlefield suggested that we prepare a one-page report (hand-out) for the November Special Town meeting, based on the Report to the Selectmen.

Ms Fairchild reported that Brian DuPont of GIS (Geographical information Systems) is continuing to look at ways to utilize the Town’s mapping abilities to provide a good visual tool to raise awareness about participation in VREP, and a good metric to use for participation. One possibility would be to use a measure of House- equivalents to allow for the different levels of participation. There are currently about 625 households participating at 10%, 25%, 50% and 100% levels, or about 200 house-equivalents.

Mr. Bender suggested that the person –to-person campaign be a three-part pitch: pledge 10% reduction, sign up for VREP to help the Green Power Communities designation, and sign up for emails from Sustainable Wellesley, for those who want to be informed about other volunteer opportunities and activities around sustainability.

**Sustainable Wellesley** A discussion followed of the relationship between the SEC as a Town appointed committee and Sustainable Wellesley as a volunteer group. Ms Littlefield and Mr. Bender will develop a model of the organizational relationship between the volunteers and the SEC, to share with the Committee at the next meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:10 a.m.

**Next Meeting: November 18, 2011**