

Sustainable Energy Committee – Minutes – December 2, 2011

Conference Room G - Town Hall

Committee Members Present:

Christopher Ketchen, Chair
Richard Joyce
Suzy Littlefield
Ellen Korpi
Beth DeSombre
Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator
Absent: Scott Bender; Robert Cooper

Citizen's Speak no one present

Minutes from 11/28/2011 – approved as amended

EPA - Green Power Communities

Mr. Joyce reported that municipal meters are read remotely every month on the 28th, so Suzanne Newark will generate the report for each of the Town buildings on their current electric use compared to FY11 to provide a feedback loop with monthly electronic updates to town departments.

Ms. Korpi described this as a user-friendly report that needs to be pretty simple, so that at a quick glance – it is a motivational tool.

Ms. Fairchild added that she is developing a database and report for all the buildings from FY07 to date to show progress towards 20% reduction goal, and allow the Facilities Department to interpret changes in both electric and natural gas use. Facilities Department is interested in seeing the use per square foot of building space, and for the schools, use per student.

Ms. Littlefield recommended that the Facilities Director, Joe Macdonough come to one of our meetings.

Mr. Ketchen indicated that this will be valuable to share at the next Departments Heads meeting, to report our progress on the 20% leadership goal. He also reported that the work chart for the new Facilities Maintenance Model, includes a new energy manager and twelve new positions as proposed from Joe Macdonough. Town Meeting will talk about this in April 2012 Town Meeting.

Ms. Korpi summarized that the Ad hoc Committee will meet next week to redesign the VREP postcard, for a direct mailing in January. Mary Gard is helping with outreach to the Village Church for their Carbon Fast for Lent.

Mr. Ketchen reported that the follow-up to the November TM handout, the photo of the SEC in support of VREP was placed on main home page of the Town's Website, and went out as an email for those who

receive the automatic updates from the Town. Mr. Ketchen emphasized that as we do these things – feel the full support of staff resources.

Ms. Littlefield suggested that a designated TMM from each precinct to send a letter to TMM in their own your own precinct.

Mr. Joyce recommended that the Committee put together a central theme - so that we can do this all at once, and keep the message simple. He recommended that for the next agenda, the Committee focus on how we are going to get the message out.

MLP Updates

Mr. Joyce reported that the WHS solar panels are being installed this Wednesday. Once it is commissioned it will start generating electricity. Spruce Mountain Wind started generating this month – the MLP now has over 10% renewable in the portfolio, more than state requirement for Investor Owned utilities (IOUs).

Mr. Joyce reported that MA legislature is voting on the RGGI Funds for Municipal Light Plant Communities, and whether to dictate how the Funds would be used by Municipal Light Plants. The proponents used the WMLP Street lights retrofit as an example of how you get more from the Funds if you don't put strings on how it is spent.

Other Business

Ms. DeSombre announced that the students in the Wellesley-Babson-Olin College Sustainability Course will be presenting their projects at the Wellesley College Observatory from 5-6:30 on December 14th. The Sustainable Energy Committee is invited and invitations will be extended to the Board of Selectmen and the Municipal Light Plant Board.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 am.

Next Meeting: December 16, 2011