

Sustainable Energy Committee Minutes – October 5, 2012

Juliani Room- Town Hall

Committee Members Present:

Ellen Korpi, Chair

Scott Bender

Richard Joyce

Jessica Langerman

Suzanne Littlefield

Barbara Searle

Stephen Tolley

Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator

Citizens' Speak: no one spoke

Minutes: Approved as previously amended from 9-7-2012;

Old Business:

Merchant Outreach Initiative

Barbara Searle reported on the Central Street Initiative meeting with more than twenty commercial Landlords last Tuesday. The Municipal Light Plant (MLP) is considering a program that offer both full energy audits and lighting audits to interested commercial customers. Some had recently completed energy efficiency improvements and so are waiting again for the types of energy efficiency improvements that will provide a two-year payback.

Solarize Wellesley- The Working Group met with Joanne Bissetta of the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), and Concord Municipal Light. These meetings clarified the need for the MLP to develop a program specifically for Wellesley, with a competitive RFP, stream-lined permitting process, and lower pricing through improved economies of scale by working with contiguous communities and encouraging participation among Wellesley community within a fixed timeframe, as the value of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) has come down from a high of \$525 to less than \$210 per mega-watt hour. The MLP is working with the building inspector to understand and streamline the permitting process for solar. Similar to other solarize programs, the MLP is considering both outright purchase of solar photo-voltaic, and power purchase agreements (PPA) which allow the customer the opportunity to lease.

Vampire Electric Initiative with Green Schools

The Vampire electric homework, introducing students to the energy wasted while things are plugged in but not in use, will go home with all the elementary school children during the week of October 16th. Copies for distribution will be provided to the principals, and electronic copies for the school newsletters as well as the local media. The Tenacre School will also be using these materials, and we are continuing to offer distribution by other private schools. The fantastic illustration of the vampire on the materials was drawn by 9th grader, Brianna Burke.

The Green Parents' Council is supporting the campaign by coordinating its own effort by classroom.

Municipal Conservation Initiative

Summary reports for the Facilities Maintenance buildings were presented for electricity and combined equivalent-carbon-dioxide (E-CO₂) emissions from electricity and natural gas use for each building. Reports will continue to provide updates on specific fuels while also including the overall 20% reduction goal in terms of E-CO₂ emissions.

The DOER's Mass Energy Insight Database program provides free electronic data from the utilities to participating municipalities through the DOER. The SEC is considering this service to obtain municipal natural gas data from National Grid, instead of having to enter manually from monthly bills. Currently the updates are only available every two months, which would limit the benefit of timely feedback on energy use by building.

Motion: To authorize Molly Fairchild to initiate participation in Mass Energy Insight for natural gas data from National Grid /was passed unanimously.

The SEC will work with Joe McDonough to plan individual meetings with the Boards to remind them of the 20% emissions reduction goal and update them on their progress.

Potential of out-sourced Benchmarking

Steve Tolley reported on the meeting with Sightlines, the benchmarking company that Babson uses for their annual emissions report. This benchmarking provides Babson with a peer group of 300 other colleges and universities for comparison, and a standardized and consistent method for the Greenhouse Gases protocol. Buildings are compared to comparable buildings in other institutions based on energy intensity (mmBtu's/square-foot).

The Local Communities for Sustainability (CACP) software, that the SEC currently uses, provides a standard GHG protocol specifically for municipalities as well as for communities.

Energy Audit Initiative for residential and commercial customers

The MLP and SEC working group met to plan the commercial and residential audit program. The MLP is considering redirecting funds from the appliance rebate program for a limited period of time, but may exclude refrigerators or dehumidifier, to fund the audits. The MLP will set up a meeting with National Grid to develop a Energy Audit program for the community, for customers with natural gas heat, to coordinate with a program for non-gas heat customers by the MLP.

New Business:

Energy Efficiency of Cable Boxes

The Selectmen will explore opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of cable-boxes when the Town's two cable contracts are up for renewal in 2015 and 2020. In the meantime, the SEC will continue to explore the availability of energy-star rated cable boxes and ways to provide customers with information about the energy use of their cable box.

Energy Life-Cycle-Cost Analysis

The Energy life-cycle-cost analysis provides a valuable tool for understanding the energy cost of appliances, technology, vehicles and buildings. Preliminary research found that there is not one specific model that is always used, but the SEC can continue to consider ways to encourage the community to use Energy life-cycle costing to help them make more informed decisions about their energy use,

Consider Program for Realtors

An initiative was proposed to update the “bragging” package to realtors about Wellesley’s “Green-ness”, to provide to new residents (as new MLP customers) and to encourage energy audits at the time of sale/purchase of a new home. Additionally, this package might provide information to explain the use of energy life-cycle cost to help home-owners understand the additional monthly cost/savings of an energy efficient home that should be considered along with the monthly cost of mortgage, taxes and insurance.

SEC Meets with Advisory Oct 24th, consideration of motion for Annual Town Meeting 2013

Ann Rappaport, Advisory’s Liaison to the SEC, suggested that meeting with Advisory can help the SEC consider a motion for Town Meeting, setting a place holder on the warrant while we work through the consideration by January.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 a.m.

Next SEC Meeting: Nov 2, 2012, 7:45-9:00 a.m.