

Sustainable Energy Committee Minutes – December 7, 2012

Moved to Great Hall, Town Hall

Committee Members Present:

Ellen Korpi, Chair

Scott Bender

Richard Joyce

Jessica Langerman

Suzanne Littlefield

Barbara Searle

Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator

Guests: Ann Rappaport, Advisory Committee Liaison

Laura Olton, resident

Allen Hebert, Energy Manager, Facilities Maintenance Department

Absent: Stephen Tolley

Citizens' Speak: no one spoke

Minutes: Minutes from 11-02-12 approved as previously amended

Old Business

Introduction of Allen Hebert, Energy Manager for Facilities Maintenance

Allen Hebert will be partnering with the SEC to work with the Building Champions in the municipal and school facilities to encourage achievement of the goal of a 20% carbon footprint reduction between 2007 and 2013. Allen is compiling the energy data for the 20 facilities maintenance buildings into a format to establish a baseline. The short-term goals list is to summarize 5-years of energy data using metrics to normalize for square-footage and climate data, and identify scope of payback for energy savings. This information will then be used to identify feasible energy conservation measures by building.

Municipal Conservation Initiative

Steve Tolley, Molly Fairchild, Dick Joyce and the MLP staff are working together to vet the complete municipal energy database. The data and most recent Energy Reports for the 20 Facilities Maintenance buildings have been handed over to Allen Hebert for Facilities Maintenance. Allen Hebert and a member of the SEC will meet with each Building Champion to kick-off this portion of the Initiative. Allen will be coordinating his efforts with the SEC and reporting progress monthly.

Solarize Wellesley & Energy Audit Initiatives

Solarize Wellesley in many ways will mimic what Solarize Mass does. The Solarize Mass program provides \$2,000 per community for Marketing, no more. Opportunities to work with other neighboring communities were explored, but there is not a good fit. Members of the Working Group have also met

with the Building Department to consider how to streamline the building permitting process. An easy process for Federal tax forms and energy tax credit will also be important.

On the Audit Initiative, a joint approach with NationalGrid is being explored. NationalGrid pushed the meeting off to Jan 8th. The thought is that Nationalgrid would share the cost with the MLP for homes with gas heat and the Town would campaign for people to take advantage of these audits. The Working Group has spoken with Energy NE, Sagewell and Next Step Living and will likely issue an RFP for the newly designed Audits. The campaign is targeted for late winter or possibly next fall.

Energy Efficiency of Cable Boxes

Dick Joyce talked with Frank Foss at Comcast. An Energy Star cable box uses 3 watts versus 40 watts, but can only be used with high-end technology such as LED TVs. Comcast seems unwilling so far to set aside 50 or 100 low wattage boxes for an energy initiative, as they would want to do this regionally. However, Alice Peisch's office is assisting the MLP in fostering additional conversations with Comcast.

The cable companies are regulated by the Department of Telecommunications and Cable. Energy star ratings for cable boxes 4.0 and 3.0 much less, are coming out in July. Residents do not have a choice at this time although there are different levels of efficiency already.

The contract with Verizon will be renegotiated with the Town in 2015 and with Comcast in 2020, providing an opportunity for Energy Star requirements. However, it is hoped that some voluntary program can be established sooner.

Outreach to Realtors Initiative

Jessica Langerman is coordinating the project to develop a way to promote energy audits at the time of sale or purchase of a home. She is meeting with individual realtors in Town, to learn their interest, ideas and concerns. A marketing campaign with some type of Wellesley Star branding is envisioned, that would be rolled out to realtors and encouraged for homes being put up for sale. The determination needs to be made as to whether transparency is the goal (in which case the Wellesley Star indicates there is an energy audit available for review) or whether encouraging pre-sale investment in energy efficiency is the goal (in which case a HERS rating number would be reported that indicated the efficiency of the home).

New Business

Proposed new RGGI Initiative

A motion was approved, unanimously for a Working Group of Dick Joyce, Barbara Searle, Ellen Korpi and Laura Olton to pursue a revision of the RGGI Bill to return funds to MLP communities. The legislation will be introduced by Representative Alice Peisch who is working closely with the SEC. Dick Joyce is working with the two associations that represent the 40 MLP towns to build a strong coalition.

Other new business

Organic waste for Composting and Energy production

Barbara Searle will be the campaign coordinator and Ellen Korpi her co-coordinator for an initiative to explore the opportunity for organic waste composting and energy production. The Colleges are

interested as the new Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) regulations for FY14 will require organic waste to be excluded from the solid waste stream for any institution with more than a ton of organic waste per week.

Motion to undertake this initiative was unanimously approved.

Sustainable Energy Plan

Scott Bender inquired about the SEC's longer term plans and agreed to draft some initial thoughts, as the Town is in the last year of the 10% Town-wide Emissions Reduction and 20% Municipal Emissions Reduction Goals.

The SEC will submit a Report to Town Meeting, but has not placed anything on the Warrant, at this time. The Warrant for Town Meeting 2013 will close on January 4th.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 a.m.