

MINUTES

Draft

Meeting of: Pelham MA Energy Committee
Date of Meeting: February 6, 2018
Time of Meeting: 7:30 PM, formally opened at 7:40 PM Adjourned at 9:36 PM
Location of meeting: Ramsdell Room, Pelham MA
Members Present: Stan Swiercz, Tony Rogers, Alisa Pearson, John Larsen
Notetaker: Tony Rogers

Notetaker

Tony volunteered to do it this meeting

Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as amended by Stan, Seconded. Approved unanimously.

New Business

Slate article and annual report

New Member Search

New members – no new leads

Mothers Out Front is having a house party 2/25.

Alisa will ask people there if they might be interested.

Green Communities Grant

The only project we currently have ready (with supporting data) for a grant application is re-lamping town buildings.

The Green Communities grant application is due in less than a month. The deadline is Mar 9.

The Community Center exterior needs repainting and caulking (for about \$120,000). Re-siding is being considered as an alternative. If re-siding were to happen then it might be possible to add insulation to the building walls at the same time at a reasonable cost.

Rick Adamcek is getting estimates for additional R10 or R20 insulation in community center walls.

We also had a discussion about the possibility of applying this year for a Green Communities grant for a new HVAC system for the Community Center.

Ashburnham got about 2/3 of the cost of a VRF heat pump system for the town library from a Green Communities grant. The maximum grant available would be for \$250,000.

Our sense was that it would be a herculean effort to get enough analysis for a grant this year.

Alternatives, estimated costs and energy savings would need to be determined. Other town bodies would also need to be involved in the discussions and funding for an engineering analysis. Could we use some of the \$25,000/year allocated for keeping up with HVAC maintenance for an engineering analysis? Solutions to be considered would be VRF, air or ground water heat pump solutions and others.

It was proposed that we will talk to the select board about using some of the \$25k for engineering analysis with goal to apply for a Green Communities grant next year. **Stan** will set up a meeting. The engineering analysis should be overseen by the energy committee.

Motion to apply for Green Communities Grant for the re-lamping of town buildings. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Tony will start the grant application, see how much work it is and consult with **John** about how to divide up the work.

Motion to approve **Stan** to start application for insulation, once supporting info becomes available. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Slate article and Annual Report and Solar PV Update

The Slate article will be sent out soon.

Annual report. We can use the Slate article for part of the annual report. We should include what we've learned in our effort to get a PV power project in town

Tony will write up what we have looked at. Get input from committee members. **Stan** will give final approval and create final copy.

Moved: Add a description of our efforts to date to get local PV power to the slate report. **Stan** will then submit the report. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Solar Hot Water Challenge

HCG had one bid to be a solar hot water project installer, Spartan Solar.

Spartan Solar is a three-person shop. If he is getting behind on installs, HCG will need to address it.

In a few months we will need to hold events to let residents know how they can take advantage of the financial incentives that will be available. It will be a fair amount of work – perhaps 3 events at library. We will need to publicize the events. We should get HCG to give us information for these events. Incentives include saving 80% on cost of system, RECs for solar hot water heating, and tax benefits.

Municipal Vulnerability Plan Update

PVPC will lead a workshop for Pelham on Municipal vulnerability. After attending the one-day workshop, we get a report on our vulnerabilities and how to address them. Town leaders and interested residents should attend. Result – we can get additional planning grants.

CCA Plus Update (CCE)

Western Mass Community Choice Energy (WMAcce) is name of advocacy group for CCE. They had two vetting calls about Paul Fenn. He knows his stuff and is technically savvy, creative. He can be prickly. NoHo has passed a 100% renewable ordinance, includes look at CCE

Northampton is planning to talk to Amherst + Pelham. Western Mass Community Choice will need someone to represent Pelham on this citizens advocacy group if Stan becomes an official rep for the town on an official inter-municipality task force that would oversee the process of deciding whether to pursue CCE, getting towns to pass resolution to pursue this and overseeing selection of lawyers and consultant to make a plan for DPU.

WMACCE had a call with Cape Light compact, the only CCA in the state using a multi-municipality model with an emphasis on energy conservation and renewable energy. WMACCE will call the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) soon. DOER is responsible for advising municipalities as they develop their aggregation plans for submission to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

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Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 2/13

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Approved unanimously. 9:36 PM.