

Approved with corrections 5/11/2017

Energy Committee Minutes Wed. April 12, 2017

Present: David Alvord, Conrad Liebenow, Tim Walter, Judy Williams

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. The minutes of the March 8, 2017 were accepted with the following corrections: Dan Friend (not Freund); Applicant Chris Clark of Plainfield Solar, Represented by SVE Assoc. of Brattleboro, VT (not Maggie Thomas) is applying for a 2.54 MW DC (not 2 MW) solar photovoltaic facility.; A motion was made by Tim Walter, seconded and approved unanimously to have a Carbon Tax Resolution go on the town warrant. Conrad will submit the corrected minutes to Brian Hawthorne for the town website.

Tim invited Lloyd Crawford of Hawley to our meeting, but he was unable to attend. Tim hopes that Lloyd will be able to attend a future meeting, or that the members of the energy committee can visit him in Hawley.

Conrad and Tim met with the building committee (March 21) and the Selectboard (March 22). They are in agreement to move forward with the World Energy LED lighting upgrades for the Town Hall, Hallock Building, and the Public Safety Building (exterior fixtures only).

The Green Community Designation Award presentation was postponed due to inclement weather until April 19 at 2:00 P.M. in North Adams. Representatives from the following towns will attend: Clarksburg, Erving, Hawley, North Adams and Plainfield. Each Green Community town will receive 4 signs that designate the town as a Green Community.

We should be able to apply for The Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) Grant in June if the same procedure is followed as in 2016. We will be informed by Jim Barry.

David Alvord attended our meeting as a liaison from the Building Committee. He informed us that there will be a special article on the warrant for the town meeting asking for \$9000 for a stand alone hot air oil unit to replace the present one at the Highway Garage. Dave feels strongly that this is a necessity and that the cost will not be significantly higher than if the unit used propane. (Conrad submitted figures indicating that the cost of propane is 20% higher than oil.) This article does not preclude using funding from the Green Community if it should become available.

An extensive discussion revolved around the need for and/or options for a Level II energy audit. Conrad said that contractors, such as, Energia, can provide proposals without requiring the audit. For example, Energia could submit an insulation project with calculations; or a heating upgrade with documented savings could be submitted by a contractor. It was suggested that a representative from Energia be invited to one of our meetings.

Tim raised the point that the META Grant could pay for an Energy Audit. If the cost is between \$10K - \$50K 3 quotes would be required but if less than \$10K only "sound business practices" are necessary. Procurement using statewide contract of the Operational Services Division (OSD) satisfies the "sound business practices" requirement. As far as pursuing audit options a proposal has been received from Bart Bales for approximately \$3k/building and for all 5 buildings \$14K. Another option is Guardian Energy from Marlborough. Dave Alvord wants to use local contractors and would be opposed to Guardian because they are not local. A third option referred from Paula to Tim would be B2Q from Andover.

Conrad submitted suggestions for two other energy projects: 1. A biomass heating project could be funded by a designation grant. 2. Solar PV installations. A question was raised about talking to representatives from the Safety Complex about solar. It was noted that the Safety Complex is subject to a USDA grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Bryan William