

Approved with corrections 12/10/2020

Minutes of Energy Committee Meeting Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020 Via Google Meet

Present: Conrad Liebenow, Renee Schmidt, Matt Stowell, Tim Walter, Judy Williams

The meeting convened at 7:12 P.M. Judy read the minutes of the Oct. meeting and they were accepted with two corrections: paragraph 5 the word trusses for tresses; paragraph 8 Tom for Jim Bowman. Conrad had prepared numerous pages of information for the meeting with the building committee and had sent copies to the Energy Committee prior to our meeting. Discussion regarding the solar proposals for the picnic pavilion from Solar Store and Sunbug indicated that the annual KW production would be the same. The higher estimate (\$42,000) from Sunbug included structural supports.

Tim feels strongly that Plainfield should move ahead with solar installation. He plans to go to the meeting of the Selectboard to encourage them to approve entering town buildings for the installation of solar. He plans to ask them for a memorandum of understanding so that the contractors would not be liable for outbreaks of COVID 19 if the buildings are entered. Tim, "If we get solar then we can move ahead with ECMs". Matt, "Does it have to be either/or, or can we move ahead with both?"

Renee, "We should look at Hathaway Hall to see how feasible it is for ECMs". Eversource will assume 70% of the cost for installation of heat pumps at the Hallock Building.. Since they are authorized they don't have to go out to bid and they can do the system design themselves.

Tim, "We have \$110,000 left in grant money. If we spend \$50,000 for solar on the pavilion we still have \$60,000 to use for the designation grant."

Tim, "I want to meet with Mark Rabinsky, the Western MA Coordinator for Green Communities because he has never been to Plainfield. Jim Berry, the previous coordinator, said we could move ahead with solar but now Mark indicates that we must take care of E Cs first. The rules seem to have changed." Renee, "Solar take 15 years for payback where insulation only takes two to three years."

Tim and Conrad's meeting with the Building Committee resulted in many creative ideas but no solutions. There is interest in heat pumps at the town hall but the reality is that the building is not used that often and heat pumps run continually and can not be quickly turned off and on. The Building Committee would like a member of the Energy Committee to be a liaison, as well as, a member of their committee. Matt said that he would consider it and Tim promised to let Matt know how often the Building Committee met.

The question was raised about consulting with the Health Committee regarding allowing access to the buildings. Judy said that Helen Dupont, chair of the Health Committee, expressed a desire to hold Board of Health meetings in the town hall but needed permission from the members of the Select Board. The members of the Select Board appear to have the power to allow access to public buildings.

Tim announced that Heat Smart Mass has removed funding for 2021 so he will not pursue that option.

There was no further business so Judy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Renee and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. The next meeting is Dec.9.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Williams, Secretary