

Approved with corrections 2/10/2021

Minutes of Energy Committee Meeting Wed. December, 10, 2020 Via: Google Meet

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

The meeting convened at 7:08 P.M. It was announced that Matt Stowell is an official member of the energy committee.

Judy read the minutes of the Nov. meeting and they were approved with the following corrections: the day of the Nov. meeting was changed from Tuesday to Wednesday; EMC's were changed to ECM's; Eversource will assume 70% of the cost for installation of heat pumps at the Hallock Building (town offices).

Conrad asked representatives at Eversource if anything would change for 2021 regarding the incentive of 70% for the installation of heat pumps at the Hallock Building. Eversource did not guarantee the 70% incentive. They asked Conrad to submit copies of the invoices for fuel for the Hallock Bldg. Paula King, town secretary, was kind enough to comply with their request. Conrad will submit the application for the heat pumps to Eversource. They will inform us if our application is accepted. We are under no obligation to Eversource until we sign a contract with them.

Discussion continued as to the details of the three heat pumps. The system will make use of the present hot air furnace's ducts and fans. There will be 3 condenser units outside of the building. The heat pumps can be modulated for any temperature conditions. The oil burners will remain a backup for extremely cold conditions. Thermopride, the company for the existing furnaces, approves adding the heat exchanger to their ducts. High tech efficient motors are another savings. The heat pumps, also, have an air conditioning mode. Renee moved and Matt seconded a motion to: Send an application to Eversource for the installation of heat pumps. The motion was approved unanimously.

A Memorandum of Understanding, dated 8 Dec., 2020, from the Plainfield Selectboard was sent to the Green Communities Division, MA Clean Energy Center and Mark Rabinsky, western MA Coordinator Green Communities. This request asked for permission to move forward with the installation of a solar PV system on the Alden Picnic Pavilion behind the Hallock Building. Remaining funds would be used for ECMs on the building. The memorandum, also, requests consideration of an electric vehicle charging station at Hathaway Hall, presently the police station, and for a rooftop solar installation at Hathaway Hall. If an understanding is reached subsequent ECMs will be installed at both the Hallock Building and Hathaway Hall.

Sunbug and The Solar Store have both given estimates for the PV system on the pavilion roof. We will give them time to respond before approaching a local carpenter for estimates for the structural requirements. Conrad will talk to Peter LaPointe, chair of the Building Committee, as to how we should proceed.

Tim will invite Mark Rabinsky to come to Plainfield for a look at our buildings.

The next meeting of the Energy Committee is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Williams