

## **Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF)**

*(The charge from the Select Board: Explore renewable energy as an alternative to, or in tandem with, conventional energy to benefit town facilities, infrastructure or otherwise benefit the community as whole; to evaluate renewable energy applications, options and costs; to identify feasible projects and associated costs; and to report to the Town Manager and Select Board your findings and recommendations for funding and implementation.)*

### Minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2008

Members present: John Hoagland, Dean Kavanagh, Dick Kmetz, Jerry Nolet, Paul Santaniello and Roger Wojcik

Members absent: none

Gallery and Guests: George Woodbury, Robin Crosbie, Thom Martens,

Old Business:

#### Status of work to define a project to reduce town street lighting costs.

The Task Force discussed a proposal to reduce the cost of Town street lighting by taking ownership of the town's street lights and paying all costs of operation and maintenance. George Woodbury, a lighting specialist who has personally worked with some 60 Massachusetts towns and cities to implement this type of proposal, participated in this discussion. George offered to work with the town under contract to implement this proposal under terms to be arranged. He provided a pro-forma contract agreement for the town's review. Thom Martens agreed to give George a copy of a WMECO's current inventory of the town's lights which would serve as a basis for possible future work. Step #1 of this type of work would likely be an economic analysis of projects costs, benefits, risks and options for paying the purchase cost of the lighting system and any subsequent improvements; step #2 would be a detailed lighting audit whose purpose would be to establish a firm basis for purchase price discussions with WMECO, the current lighting owner, and provide the town with specific information for its lighting GIS data base. Part of George's work would be to present this project to a future Public Forum. Robin Crosbie agreed to review George Woodbury's proposed contract. The Task Force agreed to plan to complete this work in time to have a firm proposal to the town's voters at the October town meeting.

#### Status of work to define a project to reduce town traffic lighting costs.

Summarizing for Thom Martens, Roger Wojcik said that the project to replace some 400 red and green traffic light assemblies in the town's traffic lights with high efficiency LED units is progressing well. WMECO will be reimbursing the town 50% of the cost of the conversion work and when the project is completed the town can be expected to save 83% of its annual 18,000\$ lighting bill for these lights. Payback on the cost of the project is expected to be less than two years.

Status of the work to define a demo solar powered security lighting system for Glenbrook.

Jeff Clearwater of Village Power Design has contacted the Task Force to say that his firm is ready to do a site survey of the proposed location of the demonstration solar/PV unit (in preparation for a specific proposal for the project). John Hoagland said that Jeff's survey will be conducted on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Status of the work to define a solar heating system for the high school pool.

Dean Kavanagh reported that the analysis of the data collected by Ron Hirsh and his students indicated that the cost of heating the high school pool and its contained water (not the room's atmosphere or other losses) is about 10,000-12,000\$/ yr. Further work is being done to assess other pool area losses.

New Business:

Jerry Nolet agreed to contact Consolidated Electric to see if can provide compact fluorescent light bulbs for the town's "green" public relations campaign.

The Task Force agreed to meet on February 5th at 9:30am to review a proposed public relations program for the Task Force's work.

Minutes submitted by

Roger Wojcik on February 4, 2008