

## **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 August 31, 2007

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

Members Absent: Jerry Nolet

Invited Guests: Ron Hirsch, teacher at Longmeadow High School

In the Gallery: No one

The meeting was called to order at about 10AM.

1) The minutes of the meeting of July 27, 2007 were approved with the change of the second paragraph of the status of the Nolet-Santaniello-Wojcik group's work to investigate possible installations of solar/photovoltaic systems ... to

"Evaluate the use of solar power for other town applications by installing and operating a solar/PV unit on the roof of Glenbrook Middle School to provide sufficient power to keep lit all exterior lighting and supplement internal electric power needs."

### Old Business:

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

The Task Force agreed to work with Ron Hirsch to develop a design basis for the proposed solar hot water system for High School use by determining heat losses in the school swimming pool and adding this demand to that needed to provide potable hot water throughout the school to establish a design basis for the project.

3) Status of the work to define a demonstration solar powered street lighting system.

A status report giving an overview on the direct conversion of solar energy to electricity via photovoltaic (PV) cells for Longmeadow was distributed

to the group. As the town has no street lighting standards, the report proposes that Longmeadow utilize street lighting guidelines established by the town of Concord, MA as a design basis for new lighting. Quotations for solar powered street lighting units were reviewed. (See attached report.)

- 4) Status of the work to define a demonstration solar powered security lighting system for Glenbrook.

Mr. Kmetz proposed the installation of a solar – PV cell array to both power the security lighting at Glenbrook Middle School and provide supplementary electric power for internal building needs. A written proposal was requested. (See attached.)

- 5) Status of work to define a wind to electric power system for the town.

A status report on the study of this potential application was distributed to the group. The study concludes that wind turbine to electricity generation is not applicable in the lower Pioneer Valley because of low average wind velocities. (See attached report)

#### New Business:

- 6) Funding for solar projects

Funding for renewable energy projects appears to have several sources, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, Clean Energy Choice, and the town's capital program, among others. Steps to obtain supporting funds from each of these sources will be identified by the Task Force. Currently, the priority grant source is the MASS DEP for which applications are due September 13.

- 7) Consider the following additional initiatives.

- a) --a focus on energy conservation in Longmeadow.

The Task Force agreed that selected opportunities to conserve energy will be pursued.

Mr. Hoagland described the value of replacing the traditional Reactive ballasts in all building fluorescent lighting with new Electronic lamp ballasts. These same electronic ballasts can be utilized for high intensity discharge (HID) high bay lighting as well. The savings appear to well worth the cost to make the switch over in all the town's buildings. (See attached email summary.) This information was given to Adrian Phaneuf who reports that this kind of work has been done.

The Task Force has scheduled an interview with George Woodbury of Hollis, New Hampshire on September 28 with the thought of using an experienced professional like George to guide and assist us in gathering hard data about existing town lighting systems and defining and installing lower energy alternatives. (Woodbury resume attached.)

b) --the Task Force to be a clearinghouse for information about solar/PV installations for all Longmeadow use,

In the interest of focusing the group's resources, the Task Force agreed that they are not ready to support this initiative.

c) --the Task Force to assist homeowners in applying solar/PV technology to home use by establishing a clear simple path through our bureaucratic procedures for project approval and providing leads to sources of funding,

In the interest of focusing the group's resources, the Task Force agreed that they are not ready to support this initiative.

d) --the Task Force to create and propose a strategic initiative to solarize Longmeadow, or turn Longmeadow GREEN.

In the interest of focusing the group's resources, the Task Force agreed that this is not a good thing for us to do.

The Task Force agreed that its next meeting will be on Friday, September 28, at 10AM in the same location.

The meeting adjourned about 11:35 am.

Minutes submitted by Roger Wojcik.