

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 September 28, 2007

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

Members Absent: Paul Santaniello

Invited Guests: Robin Crosbie, Thom Martens (newly appointed Town Engineer), Adrian Phaneuf and George Woodbury, Lighting Consultant

In the Gallery: No one

The meeting was called to order at about 10AM.

New Business

George Woodbury was introduced to the group and provided us with relevant background to his current specialty as lighting consultant. From the conversation with the Task Force it became obvious that he could provide us and town with useful information on

- the subject of utilizing LED type light modules in our traffic lights and “Walk” signals for significant cost savings in electricity and bulb maintenance. George will work with Thom Martens on this subject.
- the subject of reducing the cost of street lighting throughout town through town ownership of the lights and the changeover to more efficient light forms. A savings of over 50% of the cost of annual town lighting has been achieved in many towns in MA for which he has done work. George was provided with a “current” list of street lights in town and their specifications. One of the town’s future actions might be to reach agreement with WMECO to purchase our street lights, do our own maintenance on these lights and pay WMECO only for light electricity consumption. George recommended the town do a full detailed audit of its street lights to determine the opportunity for savings. He also suggested that lighting be “focused” (no pun intended) on interaction spaces, parking lots and “safety” zones such as street intersections and street crossings.

- the subject of reducing the cost of electricity in town building lighting through changeover to more efficient light forms for overall lighting, task lighting and EXIT sign lighting.
- George also spoke of an ENERLUM technology that has the potential to reduce lighting power costs by 20% by providing electric power to a lighting system only when the power sign wave can be used to actually light the lamps in the system.

By the end of the discussion the Task Force agreed to use George as a consultant (at this point for no charge) on all issues, and George agreed to assist the town in specifying the LED traffic light modules and in securing an updated inventory of the town street lights.

The towns electric bill for the school district was noted to be about 660,000\$ and for the non-school buildings roughly 300,000\$.

Review of the minutes of the August 31 meeting.

Not done.

Old Business:

Status of the RETF evaluation of a solar thermal heating system for the high school pool

The Task Force was briefed on the overall effort and specifically that to define the energy demands for heating the high school pool. A group of high school seniors working with Ron Hirsch and Dean Kavanagh will complete this study; first meeting of the group will be held on October 3. No school in the state appears to have installed such a heating system. See status report attached.

Status of the work to define a demo solar powered street lighting system.

The definition of a system to demonstrate solar powered street lights will be put on hold until we own the street lights we can work on. An option to demonstrate using pedestrian lighting, perhaps on the high school campus, will be explored.

Status of the RETF evaluation of a solar PV system for providing electrical power for Glenbrook

The Task Force was updated on the overall effort, with the special note that there appears to be a paucity of qualified suppliers in this area. Suggestions were made to search for CT suppliers and contact the STCC group which is managing the installation of a new solar/PV system. See attached status report.

The Task Force agreed that its next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 16, at 10AM.

The meeting adjourned about 11:45 am. Minutes submitted by Roger Wojcik.