

MINUTES: JANUARY 8, 2020
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting called to order: 7:04 pm

Attendance: Kevin Shea, Andrea Chasen, Dave Marinelli, David Miller, Steve Marantz, Liz Bone, James Ryan, Marie Angelides

Guests: Lyn Simmons, Nick Georgantas, Kurt Freeman and Rise Engineering representative Ross Lendway

7:04 pm

1. Previous Minutes Approval: Motion to accept minutes of December 11, 2019 by Dave Miller, seconded by James Ryan. Approved unanimously.

2. Kurt Freeman requested assistance on reviewing the Longmeadow zoning by-law that restricts the placement of solar panels to roofs. He presented the MA General Law that allows the placement of solar panels on the grounds of a residence and stated that he believes that the Longmeadow zoning by-law conflicts with the state and that the state law should prevail. Mr. Freeman would like to place new solar panels on the south facing side of his home and use shrubbery and or lattice work to hide the panels. He asked our committee to look into the matter of whether there is a conflict between the state and local laws and then make appropriate changes to the local by-law as necessary. If he takes action, he would submit a citizen petition request to change the by-law and all warrant articles are due by Feb 24, 2020.

Action item: Lyn Simmons will take the matter up with the town's legal counsel and if changes to the Longmeadow by-law are required, Dave Marinelli will work with the town's Planning Committee to make the appropriate amendments.

3. Dave Miller- The committee reviewed the proposals from Rise Engineering for doing work to improve the energy efficiency use for all the town municipal buildings, including the schools.

Mr. Lendway from Rise Engineering said that company will continue to honor the prices submitted about 1 year ago for doing the work on the various town properties and that the town's investment for this work will be 30% of the total costs. This rate will be in effect until January 1, 2021.

There are 4 "shovel ready" projects that can be done immediately: Wolf Swamp, Glenbrook and Williams Schools and the Senior Center. The town's portion of the work for all 4 projects is about \$20,000 and there is a ROI of about 3 years for this work. Other Longmeadow sites issues that still need energy work include: the old town hall which has asbestos issues, the Community House which has knob and tubing electric work that needs to be changed out in order to insulate. The police department might be ready to be insulated, but the building will have to be empty for about 24 hours to get the work done.

The work to be done on the schools can be done during school breaks and summer recess.

Discussion on financing for the town's portion for this work: can the \$20,000 be shared between the schools' and town's existing budgets with each contributing about \$10,000. Because the middle schools won't be rebuilt for at least 7 years, the committee felt that improving the energy efficiency now would be a good investment.

Action items:

Nick will get quote for switching panel from knob and tube to Ross and we might get a discount on switching the panel.

Lyn will see how best to raise the \$20k: and can the town seek Green Communities money for any/all of these projects. Lyn will talk with Paul P to see if there is any funding left over in this budget to fund any portion of this work.

Dave Miller will work to get audits of existing refrigerators and look at whether they need any work to be more energy efficient. Mr. Ross will provide the name(s) of vendors to help with this task.

Nick will work with Rise Engineering to flesh out the details for the projects.

Dave Miller made a motion to recommend that the town move forward with the 4 projects that are "shovel ready", with the stipulation that a potentially better price for Blueberry Hill School be sought, and to do abatement work for the other buildings. James Ryan seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. The committee provided these recommendations to the town manager.

4. Other business-Steve Marantz provided information about a current House bill- H.2810 (Carbon fee and rebate): As written, 20% of collected revenues would go back to the community to support green projects. There is a hearing on the bill Tuesday, January 14, 2020. The question before the committee is whether we can, as a committee of Longmeadow, provide written support for this bill. Steve will also ask the Select Board to show support for this bill and send the letters of support to the Governor, Speaker DeLeo and Senate President Spilka.

There was discussion about the role of the committee in providing support for various legislative actions and the committee felt that support for energy efficiency and sustainability work is appropriate.

It was noted that Gov. Baker is working with the other 12 states in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to add a gas tax to help support the reduction of GHG emissions and this would happen through executive action with 12 other states. The committee also supports the RGGI proposal.

Action Item: Andrea Chasen will draft letters of support, on behalf of the committee, for H. 2810 and the Governor's RGGI proposal.

Dave Miller made a motion to send letters of support. James Ryan seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

5. MassSaves audit- the committee has agreed that there is a need to promote these audits to the town as a whole as it both helps the individual home owner save money by becoming more energy efficient and helps the town reduce its GHG emissions..

Action items: Write a press release and give to Lyn.

Ask Brian Ashe to interview a member of the committee for his show.
Liz will activate Facebook page.

Next meeting- February 12, 2020, 7:15pm

- Agenda items: Discuss Green Communities grant, and Lyn will come to talk about a project.