

MINUTES: FEBRUARY 12, 2020  
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting called to order: Call to order: 7:17pm

Attendance: Andrea Chasen, Steve Marantz, James Ryan, David Miller, David Marinelli, Liz Bone. Absent: Marie Angelides  
Guests: Lyn Simmons, Nick Georgantas

1. Previous Minutes Approval: Motion to accept minutes of January 8, 2020, as well as minutes of May 21, 2019, September 24, 2019, October 29, 2019 and December 4, 2019, made by Steven Marantz and seconded by David Miller. Approved unanimously.

2. Presentation to committee by Architect Kerry Dietz, who is appointed to the Board of Building Regulations and Standards, (BBRS).

The focus of her presentation was to educate the committee as to changes to the State's current building code and its potential impact to Green Communities, and to help the committee understand any definitions of "net zero" building and energy policies are.

There are changes to the building code that were adopted: (subsequent to the meeting Ms. Dietz provided a link to the current code: [https://9ad40d15-aa8a-46f1-8d98-53ef6e001f6d.usrfiles.com/ugd/9ad40d\\_ddd424db0cb44b0f8607e2c9e6dffe2b.pdf](https://9ad40d15-aa8a-46f1-8d98-53ef6e001f6d.usrfiles.com/ugd/9ad40d_ddd424db0cb44b0f8607e2c9e6dffe2b.pdf) ) BBRS is just beginning to work on 2021 for adoption by 2021. And it is anticipated that the BBRS will pay more attention to energy conservation as it reviews the building code standards. Ms. Dietz pointed out that the Stretch code required for Green Communities faces a good deal of resistance, somewhat based on the local communities' politics.

With regard to helping the Longmeadow committee understand definitions of "net zero" there are no universally accepted definitions and may depend on whether a requirement refers to net zero energy, net zero emissions, or net zero carbon. As of now, it seems that each community can develop its own definition and not run afoul of state regulations. Ms. Dietz recommends that the Longmeadow committee reach out to city planners in Cambridge, and Somerville for guidance

Even though Governor Baker has proposed a "net zero emission" standard, the BBRS board is facing roadblocks because of powerful lobbies.

It was suggested that the Longmeadow committee reach out to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for assistance in developing standards for our community/

3. Updates on Longmeadow energy conservation activities and Green Communities funding provide by Lyn Simmons and Nick Georgantas:

- There is knob and tube in old town hall and Nick is getting quotes for switchover.
- Other buildings:
- There is funding available for energy work at Williams Middle School and the senior center;
- There is no funding available for work at Glenbrook Middle School. Lyn said that this will be reexamined at the end of the fiscal year to see if there is any money left over in the budget.
- Marie Angelides, chair of the Select Board, put in a placeholder of \$50,000 in funding for energy conservation and sustainability work in the town. This will be reviewed at the May

town meeting. David Miller suggested bringing forward the refrigeration needs for possible funding. He will move forward on getting information about the work that needs to be done.

- The town was unable to apply for the new round of Green communities grants because our first grant (received in 2013) has not been fully spent. Lyn discussed her work in getting clarification from the state's Green Communities staff who had led the town to believe that it would be eligible to apply for new money so long as the current grant money was fully obligated (which it is). However, the interpretation now given to Lyn is that all money must actually be spent. And since some of the grant money has been obligated for street lights, these lights will not be installed and inspected until the end of March. Additional complications on this allocation is that some of the street lights are being made in Wuhan, China which had shut down all work due to the coronavirus

#### 4. Presentation on MVP (municipal vulnerability program) grant status

Longmeadow had submitted a MVP grant which was rejected by the state. Now, Lyn is suggesting going in a totally different direction which is looking to develop solar arrays that are attached to the town's designated emergency facilities which include the DPW and Adult Center (both still under construction) and the fire and police department buildings as well as the high school. So long as the solar arrays are attached to emergency facilities, it is eligible for a MVP grant. Lyn is proposing to use a consultant, Rivermoor, to help the design and development of these plans and assist in submitting them for MVP approval. Rivermoor has a track record of helping other towns in the state. As of right now, Lyn believes that the town's current energy purchase agreement covers between 40-50% of existing municipal usage.

#### 5. Other business:

A. Dave Marinelli, who is also the town's tree warden, pointed out that deicing salts, while increasing traffic safety, come with certain tradeoffs. They are having a significant negative impact on the town's trees, especially maple trees, are adding salt to our storm water run-off, and degrading sidewalks, storm drains and culverts. Lyn will look into this issue and see if there are standards to be used to help significantly lessen the damage to trees, sidewalks and culverts.

B. Lyn announced that the adult center and DPW will be in line to get EV chargers. Lyn is looking for grant money to pay for these and believes that the town can receive at least 60% of charger costs. Each charger ranges in cost between \$5-\$10K.

Our committee decided to reach out to the private commercial property owners to see about adding EV chargers in the center of town. It is believed that the town can help look for grant money and that over time the addition of EV chargers to can to the draw of drivers on Route 91 to come into Longmeadow and shop and dine.

Liz will research availability of commercial EV charger grants for commercial use and Andrea will reach out to the Big Y Corporation to gauge its interest in this project.

C. The committee agreed to send out its advocacy letter in support of H.2810 and will use the letterhead created by Lyn. The committee will send a similar letter to the Senate in support of the Futures Act. Senator Lesser is being asked to speak to our committee and others in town to explain the proposed legislation and answer questions. Morton to send the letter out made by David Miller and seconded by James Ryan. Passed unanimously.

D. Liz has resurrected the committee's Facebook page and is seeking articles and information to share with the community.

E. To be considered at our next meeting: should the committee recommend the support of a net zero emission resolution to the Select Board and if yes, what would we request.

F. Next meeting: March 18, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 9:10. Motion made by Liz Bone and seconded by David Miller.  
Unanimously accepted.

Respectfully submitted by:

Elizabeth Bone  
*Recording Secretary*

. Other business:  
A. Dave Marinelli,