

MINUTES
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
June 2, 2021
Held via Zoom

Call to order-7:03pm

Attending: Andrea Chasen, Liz Bone, Minoos Tehrani, Steven Marantz, David Miller,
Absent: Kevin Shea, David Morse, Marie

1. Opening of Meeting: Andrea read the open meeting executive order pursuant to Gov. Baker's guidelines issued March, 2020.

2. Discussion of Minutes of March 18, 2021: Motion made by David Miller, second by Kevin Shea, roll call vote, all in favor.

3. Update on work for Solar Energy Projects: At the previous meeting, UMass Energy Extension Center gave us a report for their recommendations for our solar plans. To complete their work, they need to have access to the Green Communities Municipal Energy Inventory. While David Miller has access to Green Communities energy audit, he is unable to share the report without specific authorization.

Steve Marantz has the paperwork and will work on getting the necessary authorization to allow sharing of the information.

With regard to the question as to whether the SPW and COA buildings can handle solar panels, we learned that the roofs are able to do so. Northeast Solar will be submitting a proposal for solar panels on the DPW building.

Question for Steve: When we have more information we will be looking at different options to help pay for these panels

4. General information: Gov. Baker has finally signed the new climate roadmap legislation. This legislation lays out very specific guidelines to help the state reduce GHG emissions by 50% below the 1990 levels by 2030. This will put pressure on towns to move forward on energy reduction. For example: will individual towns be implementing their own by-laws to reduce GHG emissions?

Suggestions on what our committee can do:

Focus on solar

Institute a net zero by law for municipality buildings. (Net zero means balancing carbon positive things with negative things/ Increasing green space in town)

David Morse mentioned Kestral which is an organization that gets property owners to set aside their property for green space/ recreation. Should we ask them to look at the lower Pioneer Valley?

Longmeadow doesn't have much green space so may be futile. (Andrea to reach out to Kestral.)

- Update about Middle Schools- SOI out with the Dept of Ed for approval. This is the 4th year submitted.
- Earth Day clean up went great and since then the farming land has started to be cleaned up.
- Glen asked where information is about a solar project? Rivermore Project being posted to our website, and will be discussed in a future meeting.

Update on Eversource pipeline project: Eversource has renamed the project to the Western Mass Reliability Project. Lessons to be learned from the burning plant project which has been shut down due to community efforts. They will now focus their efforts on the pipeline. Andrea should write a position letter to all legislators about the pipeline. Public forums will be coming up so we need to ask our legislators to have them held in Longmeadow. Eversource just needs to fix their leaks, they don't need to build more lines.

Steve Marantz made a motion for Andrea to write letters on our behalf to legislators, newspapers, Eversource about our objection to their pipeline. Minoo seconded. All in favor in roll call vote.

-Minoo will share with the committee her information/ conference zoom link to an Environmental Conference from Germany so we can attend.

Next meeting June 30th, 7pm

Adjourn at 8:11 pm. Steve Marantz made a motion, Liz Bone seconded. All in favor in roll call vote.