

MINUTES: OCTOBER 29, 2020  
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
HELD VIA ZOOM

Meeting called to order: 7:15pm

Attending: Liz Bone, Andre Chasen, David Morse, (new committee member), David Miller, Lyn Simmons, Steve Marantz, Minoo Tehrani, Walter DelaCruz (visitor).

1. Meeting began with Andrea reading open meeting law pursuant to Governor Bakers guidelines during the pandemic emergency declaration.
2. Discussion of Minutes of September 24, 2020 meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as written by Liz Bone and seconded by Minoo Tehrani. Motion passed.
3. Town Manager update:
  - The town's Green Communities annual report is being written by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The report will be submitted to the state by November 6. Lyn will forward copies of the report to this committee.
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  - The META grant cannot be announced just yet but all the grant documents are signed and feasibility study in process. Tax credits better in CY 20, so Lyn is trying to get ready ASAP.
  - EV charging stations- 4 locations moving forward. Infrastructure has been completed at the DPW, and Senior Center. All will be completed by May 2021.
  - Lyn applying for another grant to pay for 60% of an EV charger at the DPW.

The committee discussed how to encourage more EV development at the business centers in town.

To do: Liz will draft a letter to ask town businesses about their interest to have EV chargers located in their parking lots. To help encourage their support, Liz will provide a list of grants to help them finance these stations. Lyn will use this letter to send to Big Y, Williams and Bliss St shops, and Armatas, etc.

F. Minoo has students who are willing to help with research. Lyn will reach out as needed.

G. Next year's Green Communities grant application process will probably be released around February, so we should prep in the next few weeks. The list of projects needs dollar figures.

Lyn will work to get the information about cost for the

- Variable Speed motor of the LHS pool
- EV charging stations for the schools
- Hybrid vehicles for replacement of some town vehicles
- The cost of changing the sewer pump motor to a variable speed one (Mark Gold will be asked to help with this project)

Steve Marantz will get information about the cost of solar panels for the new Adult Center

We can ask our Green communities rep to come to our next meeting for discussion.

#### 4. Other Business:

A. Andrea will write a letter to Eversource to ask them questions about their goals and to let them know that we do not want any expansion of gas but rather repair.

B. Good press about all the projects we have assisted with, and Andrea will draft a letter to the SB to show them all the projects we've completed. We need to capitalize on this and let the community know about our work as well.

David Miller will try to come up with process to show how much savings our changes have made

C. We have \$50k in our budget and we need to determine how we can best make use of this money going forward.

D. The SB approved the new Open Space and Recreation Plan Update that was submitted by the ad hoc committee that developed the update. One critical component of the plan focuses on climate change and recommends the following:

***New: Goal #5 – Strengthen Longmeadow's climate change resilience through park and open space design and preservation,***

Andrea suggested that our committee consider drafting a by-law in support of this goal. She will ask Minoo to ask her students to help research what other communities in MA are doing to help preserve their open space in a cohesive way.

There are other goals in this plan that needs to be reviewed and the town needs to figure out how to continue to incorporate its goals into ongoing work.

Andrea will send the plan to committee members for their review and input.

E. On Nov 4- Dave Marinelli doing a compost presentation at the library. Please sign up and recommend.

5. New business:

David Morse- how do we promote alternatives to natural gas? Andrea suggested that he propose some ideas for our next meeting. This committee has discussed this matter before and one of the options for this is to provide educational opportunities for the town as a whole.

How do we promote getting rid of pesticides in town? David Morse will do research.

6. Next meeting will be December 3, 2020, 7:15pm

7. Motion to adjourn: Minoo

2nd - Dave Miller: Motion passed.

Adjourned: 8:18pm

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bone