

Alternative Energy Committee – Meeting Minutes

Date: November 14, 2017

Approved: December 12, 2017

Location: Merry Room, Duxbury Public Library

Attendees: Lew Segall (Chair), Matt Cooney, Jessica Williams, Sandy von Stackelberg, Jim Goldenberg, Lois Wood, Marc Peterman

Absent: Josh Cutler, Lynn Smith, Kevin Kingston, Kate Moriarty, Susan Fontaine

Minutes:

- A. At 7:50pm Mr. Segall called the meeting to order.
- B. Discussion began regarding topics for the evening's agenda and approved items.
- C. Committee candidate Jim White introduced himself to the Committee and expressed his interest in and commitment to clean energy, and desire to join the Committee.
- D. Mr. Segall nominated Matt Cooney for Vice Chair. The vote was unanimously in favor and Mr. Cooney was confirmed as Vice Chair.
- E. Mr. Segall reviewed the October 10, 2017 meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve. The motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.
- F. Jessica Williams provided an update on Green Communities:
 - a. Mr. Seth Pickering, Green Communities Regional Coordinator, has provided guidance on the application process.
 - b. The Energy Plan and Vehicle Policy were approved by the town selectmen and the school committee.
 - c. The topic of vendor evaluation was introduced, and the Committee recommended to refer vendor solicitation to the town and to ask the town for guidance in screening and communications.
 - d. A discussion about the viability and location of solar canopies generated recommendations for further research.
 - e. Ms. Williams shared her findings from a review of an online webinar regarding solar panels. Her conclusions were:
 - i. Solar panels must generate 200 kilowatts to make the cost of their installation worthwhile.
 - ii. Sources of funding include:
 - 1. Self-funding (i.e., by the town) of solar panel installation, which yields the highest return on investment.
 - 2. Clean/renewable energy bonds.
 - 3. Power Purchase Agreement. In this scenario, a third party/company pays for all upfront costs, and Duxbury would pay to the third party/company a fixed rate for 20-years to payback these costs. The cost of power would be re-negotiated at the conclusion of this Agreement.
 - 4. Green Communities offers a grant to perform a feasibility study to determine which of the above is the best option.
 - iii. The recommendation was made to follow-up with Seth Pickering and communicate the findings.

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- G. Jim Goldenberg recommended tying education and communication to public installation of solar utilities, such as at the transfer station or middle/high school.
- H. The development of a plan for solar/battery backup was recommended as a topic for future discussion.
- I. Mr. Segall recommended inviting a solar canopy developer working on a project in Hanson to the next AEC meeting; Ms. Williams recommended that Josh Cutler facilitate the invitation.
- J. Mr. Segall introduced a discussion of areas for AEC focus in 2018:
 - a. Mr. Peterman discussed charging stations and their potential locations. Suggestions included the middle/high school, DuxPlex, and Duxbury Bay Maritime School.
 - i. The development of a reference guide, outlining information about charging stations, was discussed.
 - ii. Mr. Goldenberg noted that the location must be municipally owned to fall under the Committee's purview.
 - iii. Mr. Peterson will lead this initiative in 2018.
 - b. Mr. White will obtain the report of all investments made by Massachusetts towns with Green Communities designation.
- K. Mr. Cooney provided an update regarding digital communications/social media:
 - a. In 2018, the AEC will solicit user-generated logos and monthly feature a Committee favorite on the AEC's Facebook page.
 - b. At the end of the year, the top 12 will be featured in an album on the Facebook page with a call to the community to select their favorite.
 - c. The selected logo will be the AEC logo for 2019.
 - d. This process will repeat on an annual basis.
- L. Mr. Segall will continue to follow up with Ted Flynn, selectman representative to the AEC, regarding a broader anti-idling initiative, which is a component of the town's Green Communities energy reduction plan as it pertains to town vehicles.
- M. Mr. White's candidacy was formally approved unanimously by the Committee, and he was welcomed as a new member to the Committee.
- N. At 9:10 pm a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Cooney