

West Newbury Energy Advisory Committee, August 28, 2019.

Present: Elisa Grammar, Liz Callahan, Rick Parker, Chip Wallace, Liz Hatch, Elisa's friends Donna Greene and her daughter Kelly Whitney

Review of minutes from July 10. The committee approved them with all changes suggested by Elisa. Elisa has attended a planning board meeting since then and got the impression that Planning Board members not present at our meeting did not accept some of the points agreed on during the meeting. Elisa will finalize and post the minutes, Liz will forward them to Leah for Planning Board information.

Green communities grant opportunities. Rick said Angus is interested in a street light project. This is a good time for the committee to communicate with him about products worth consideration for a Green Communities grant. Elisa observed that our current lighting around town appears old and unreliable. We should be careful to choose a good replacement product.

An inventory of street lights was done a couple of years ago. We would need to update that, purchase them from the utility at a depreciated value, and install new lights. Poles might be owned by the power company or phone company. Amesbury is in the process now. Newburyport did it a year or two ago. The DPW would be heavily involved. Could we work with Newburyport on use of their truck which is able to do maintenance?

EV Charging stations. Time to reach out to town departments and stakeholders about suitable locations.

These might be covered by other grants than Green Communities. We should look at plans for future vehicle purchases, to help identify EV opportunities and consider where it makes sense to install a charger for town vehicle use. The process for choosing a new vehicle is not well defined. We did adopt a new vehicle policy as part of Green Communities implementation. Police and large utility vehicles for public works and the fire department are largely exempt from GC rules. Other vehicles are appropriate targets. The Capital improvement Committee list doesn't get into much detail. Rick is the selectmen contact with the CIC.

Future project ideas. Assess learning opportunities from Newburyport carbon footprint study. Examine opportunities at Page School. Review of updates to control system funded by town several years ago.

Green Communities funding idea. HVAC control system improvements for 1910 building. Air conditioning roof unit replacements. Rick will meet with the Capital Improvements Committee next time, get a copy of their proposed schedule and share it.

Ask other towns about LED streetlight projects. Chip will check with Newburyport. Elisa will talk to Tom Barasso in Amesbury. Liz Hatch will contact Haverhill.

Street lights are not in scope of our Mass Energy Insight tracking and reporting due to a past decision. Possibly we can add it now. Rick has an inventory of West Newbury street lights he can share. We should plan to reach out to selectmen at the appropriate time. Liz will try to get on the selectmen's agenda in September.

Another idea is potential for conversion to heat pumps from resistance electric water heating. Or hot water improvements generally.

What energy audit reports are available that have open recommendations that are still relevant? Rick's impression is that we did most of the feasible recommendations based on audits in past few years.

Should we do a web page item or email blast promoting the Mass Save program? Elisa will draft something, put it on web site for us to look at and comment on. When final she will distribute the message.

Rick will send out spreadsheet on solar savings from Main Street project for us to publicize.

How to positively impact school building planning process for energy efficiency and solar readiness. Let's get aware of when the committee meets and be available to make suggestions.

Mission and name of committee. Rick feels we have accomplished much of what an energy committee can get done. Maybe we can adopt a wider mission to help town residents adopt measures to reduce their emissions. We will consider this in connection with and after the MVP project.

How can we reach more people to participating in peak shaving? Let's think about more use of a town email blast that people can sign up for.