

West Newbury Energy Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
April 23, 2020.

**Present:** Rick Parker, Liz Callahan, Tom Craig, Elisa Grammer, Chip Wallace via Remote Participation

**EV charging stations.** Rick: Maintenance plan is a bigger issue than previously realized. He has contacted some communities and others for input. Can we get away without a maintenance plan? Medford said it is a good idea to buy a plan. It would increase the cost above what we have been projecting. How would we handle the operation of the system? We should have an idea whether and how much we would plan to charge users.

The planning board determined that this issue requires a site plan review. Rick met with Brian Murphy, who indicated that the review should be fairly simple, there is probably no opposition. Angus may not have time to lead the charge. He may seek a legal opinion on whether site plan review should be required. Who would want to take this on.

Liz questions. If site plan review goes forward what is involved. Brian thought we could work with the sketch we already have. We need to look into other requirements of a site plan review. The likely applicant is the board of selectmen. Chip will take a look at what those requirements appear to be.

There is a lot of concern about municipal finances. Our best argument is probably that the \$8000 or so that West Newbury would pay would leverage a much larger amount of grant money.

Elisa will revise her document advocating for the EV charging projects. Make it a one pager, add a proposal to charge \$1 per hour based on prevailing rates Chip has been seeing.

**Green Communities grant proposal.** Deadline extended to May 1. Rick finished it today and spoke with Mike McCarron. He plans to get it submitted tomorrow, with Angus's signature or Archie's.

**Climate Action Plan – goals, outreach.** Angus intends to mention it to Archie and get it on an agenda for an upcoming selectmen's meeting. Ideally it will be a grass roots, citizen initiative for a town meeting vote but with the support of the selectmen. It is proposed that we pull together a group of 6-10 people, maybe 2 from this group, to develop something appropriate for West Newbury. Find a model from another community that is a good fit. Put model policies on Elisa's Dropbox.

Let's try to include some students. Reach out to the high school contact who attended the MVP meeting.

**Black Earth Composting.** Rick contacted them, they were responsive. See email Rick had forwarded. Blake Seale of Board of Health has a dialog going on with them. The composting fee is sensitive to the level of participation by the town. People were generally supportive of moving forward with this.

**Sustainability.** Chip said if we can work with the Board of Health on a composting issue then that provides a model for us working beyond strictly energy issues. Liz agreed and asked about the status of the MVP core group. That group needs to continue in order to do an annual report to the state, and maintain and update the plan, and continue an ongoing discussion. So continuing the MVP core group or something similar is another way to continue working on broader issues. There may be opportunities to work with additional community groups in the future, such as the tree committee and others.

**New business.** Rick mentioned that the new chairman of Storm Surge, Bill Clary, is looking for some volunteers to help with their work. They need (1) a youngish marketing person who is social media savvy, and (2) Someone to maintain their contact database and help get more people engaged.

**Wrapup.** Chip will send out minutes of this meeting. Elisa will update her handout on EV charging, contact the appropriate person about student involvement, resend the links to the DropBox and also info about MVP on the town website.