

# Colrain Energy Committee

## Meeting Notes- Meeting Number 3 - 8/16/17

### Present:

Asistant Chair, Therese Fitzsimmons, Rocky Lively, Al Ladd, Peter Brooks

**Agenda:** Town Energy status, Green Communities, FRCOG meeting, priorities.

**Notes;** The notes from 7/19/17 were approved.

**Quorum;** At the first meeting we decided to set the number at 5. Only 4 members were present throughout this meeting. We should rethink that number for the quorum given the likely hood of absentees.

### Old Business:

**2-1 Town Energy;** Elizebeth reported on a conversation with Kevin Fox.

- A Town audit report is due soon, we will have a copy to review.
- Town did not pursue Green Community status because of fear that it would deter new or renovated construction.
- He has an energy report that recommended replacing lighting in the Fire Station and Town offices. A new Town Garage is being designed.
- The Library roof and soccer field are possible places for some solar power.
- We should present the benefits of being a Green Community to the Select Board.

**3-1.** Elizabeth will get a copy of the Town energy audit from Kevin Fox.

**2-2.Green Community Requirements** Becoming a Green Community entitles the Town to a \$125K energy grant, as a minimum. A municipality should meet the following 5 criteria;

1. Designate locations for renewable energy generation..
2. Expedite the permit process for renewable energy facilities.
3. Develop a plan to reduce energy use from an established baseline by 20% within 5 years.
4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles.
5. Minimize the life-cycle cost of construction by adopting the Stretch energy efficiency code, which has been updated this year.

**3-2** Therese reported on conversation with Margaret Owen of Buckland. Their committee took 2 years to pass the stretch code. They had 2 public meetings which included builders, owners, the Building Inspector Jim Hawkins and Jim Barry of DOER.

- Rocky provided insight into local builders likely to be in favor of the adopting the Stretch Code including George Dole and Russ Donnelson.
- Al Ladd said that he would talk with Noah Grundgerg of Noble Homes also.
- Al will schedule an appointment with Building Inspector Shawn Kimberly during our next meeting.

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- Peter reported that the new 9th edition of the Building Code upgrades the Stretch Code energy conservation requirements to meet the 2015 International Energy Code, but does not require additions or renovations to meet the Stretch Code.
- Al or Bing was going to ask Joan Rockwell whether the current Solar Bylaw was restrictive to renewable energy development and would it interfere with becoming a Green Community.
- A plan must be developed for the Town to reduce energy use by 20%. We need the Town audit and could work with the consultant to develop a plan if we pursue this option.
- We thought that the Green Community options could be presented at a meeting next May.

**2-3. Community Choice Aggregation;** Jim Barry's presentation given to FRCOG energy group. Elizabeth and Peter attended and discussed as follows.

- This is a legal mechanism for a town to establish a "Municipal Light Plant" to purchase power directly from a generator at competitive prices. The power is distributed on the grid. Greefield has completed a plan that was accepted by DPU.
- This will not save any big money.
- The price will be stable for the length of the contract.
- This allows the Town to purchase a greater % of renewable power, with more Green options.
- 1. First the Town must vote to look into pursuing the option.
- 2. The Town and a consultant prepare the plan which will be reviewed by DOER.
- 3. The plan will be reviewed and explained to local citizens, all will have the choice to opt out of the plan.
- 4. When finally agreeable to DOER the plan will be sent to DPU for approval.
- Yearly reporting to DPU is required, and is built into the consultant contract. The costs are included in the power purchase. The Town is permitted to charge a customer fee also.
- We made no commitment to the FRCOG group other than to stay involved, but several communities are moving forward with this process. Leverett has already submitted a plan to DPU.

**3-3,** We are unsure of our relationship with FRCOG. It seemed that Colrain had applied for a META grant but was late. The Town audit apparently was only for lighting. Elizabeth should contact Peggy Sloan of FRGOG for more information.

- None of us had information regarding an MEI meeting.

#### **2-4 Priorities**

- Elizabeth will continue the discussion with Kevin Fox regarding the Energy Audit.
- Peter will attend the next FRCOG energy group meeting and research the latest Stretch Code.

**3-4,** We think that one of our goals should be to help the town understand the great opportunities available through Mass Save.

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1-6. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday September 20, at 6:00 PM at the Library.

**Agenda,**Further reports on the old business.

Meet with Shawn Kimberly

Mass Power Forward

Peter will be away so someone else will need to take notes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM