

Colrain Energy Committee Notes 1/17/18, Meeting #8

Present: Elizabeth Erickson, Therese Fitzsimmons, Al Ladd, Rocky Lively, Bing Waldsmith, Peter Brooks

Agenda; Jim Barry of DOER presented his power point about the Green Communities program.

8-1 Green Community program was created by the State to drive energy use to renewable energy and reduce fossil fuel use. Grants are made to towns to become more energy efficient. Colrain would qualify for about \$130,000.

8-2 To become designated as a Green Community and receive this grant Colrain would have to pass 5 qualifying hurdles.

1. Zoning must permit some alternative energy facility to be located somewhere in town without a special permit.
2. Adopt an expedited permit process for an alternative energy facility. This shall apply to all required permits to build the facility.
3. Submit a plan for the Town to reduce the municipal energy use by 20%, from an established baseline, over 5 years.
4. Town shall purchase fuel efficient vehicles when possible, excluding heavy duty vehicles.
5. Adopt the Stretch Energy code as revised in the 9th edition Mass Building code in 2017.

8-3 Grants are funded from proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auction, where Utilities bid for the right to pollute.

8-4 The neighboring towns of Rowe, Hawley, Buckland, Shelburne and Greenfield are now Green Communities. Heath and Charlemont plan to vote on it in the spring town meeting. They have all received grants of over \$130K.

8-5 The State Building Code was updated to the 9th edition in 2017 and it references the 2015 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code for the base energy code. The new Stretch Energy Code applies only to new construction. Additions and renovations follow the base energy code. Both the stretch and base codes now require certification by a HERS rater.

8-6 Jim showed examples of an average new house built in Worcester calculated with different fuels designed to meet the stretch code. The additional costs were as follows;

Propane	\$2,606.
Oil	\$4,011.
Heat pump	\$2,360.

Rebates available through a Mass Save new construction program called the Blended Savings Approach will cover those additional costs. The rebates are managed by the HERS rater.

Next meeting Wednesday 2/21, 5:30 Select Board Meeting proposal by Jim Barry
Agenda; Stretch Code, Green Communities, Forum, Warrant articles,
and unforeseen business.