

Shutesbury Energy Committee Minutes

October 4, 2010

DRAFT

The meeting was convened at 7 PM.

Present: Larry Hunter, Clark Sylvester, Bruce Davidson, Steve Rice, Mark Tuominen, and Becky Torres

Minutes from the previous meeting (7/26/10) were reviewed. A few amendments were noted and made, then approved.

Discussion items:

Solar Project: Larry noted that the angle of the solar cells needs to be adjusted due to the change in season. He volunteered to head up a project to change the angle. Several people volunteered to help adjust the panels this Sunday, 10/10 at 9 AM.

Becky mentioned that one of the panels (#4) was showing about 7% less energy production, possibly due to a tree blocking the panel in the late afternoon. On Sunday Larry will use his solar tracker to determine the overall yearly impact of the tree blocking sun light on the panel.

There was some discussion on the need for a calibrated energy production meter in order to obtain the SREC's that may be worth about \$3600 yearly to the town. Since one was not installed, Becky will call the MTC to find out exactly what kind of meter to install in order to be qualified for the SREC's. She will arrange for the installation of the meter.

There was some discussion about putting together an educational display for the solar panels. Steve volunteered to take this on. The display will explain how the panels work and what the benefits are for the town. Larry agreed to do the calculation for carbon offsets.

Stretch Code: There is a special town meeting coming up on 10/26 at 7 PM. One of the items being voted on is the new stretch building codes. Becky asked for a presentation or statement by an energy committee member in support of the code (previously approved at the last meeting). The committee felt that Craig was the most knowledgeable about the code but is absent from this meeting. Clark agreed to contact Craig by phone and email to find out if he would make the presentation. Bruce agreed to do it in case Craig was unavailable.

Building Insulation: In a recent informal inspection of the building's attic by the building committee, it was noted that insulation is missing from the front section of the building where the clerk's office is located. In addition there are some additional sealing opportunities in the attic to block out the entrance of cold air. The sealing will be completed by volunteers and the insulation is being contracted out. Becky asked the committee members to volunteer if they can to help out with the sealing. She will let us know when that gets scheduled.

Website: There was discussion about updating the website with photos of the solar panels and energy related facts. No one volunteered to take this on.

250th Celebration: Some possibilities include; ride your bike to town meeting, and outline of the history of energy in Shutesbury. Further discussion on these is warranted.

Annual Report: No one volunteered to write a non-required fiscal year report of energy committee activities for the year.

Next Meeting: Mark your calendars for Monday, November 1 at 7 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.