

Energy Committee Minutes

November 7, 2011

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

Guest: David Dann

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM.

Agenda Items:

1. David Dann spoke about the opportunity to promote energy audits through MassSave Program. The program is extremely beneficial with up to \$2,000 provided for energy upgrades such as air sealing and added insulation. The home owner pays 25% and MassSave pays the rest up to \$2,000. There are additional rebates for furnace updates etc. Now, the Franklin County Home Care Corp. has some additional benefits for Franklin County residents, 60 years old and up, to pay the 25%. There is another \$600 available to correct roadblocks found in the energy audits. The Energy Committee agreed to support and promote the program, but there is no town newsletter going out until January. David agreed to make up an information sheet that could be handed out at the town election on November 8th.
2. Becky reported on the SREC payments indicating that the town has received over \$5,000 since the program started. She will put an announcement in the next town newsletter.
3. Becky reported on a Bike Share program that started up in Boston and asked the committee if this would be a good idea for Shutesbury. After a brief discussion the committee decided it was not appropriate for Shutesbury. Perhaps a program that would pick up bicycle commuters at the bottom of the hill would be more beneficial or providing grants for bicycle gas or electric motors to assist riders coming up the hill would be more appropriate.
4. Green Communities: Becky is waiting for an announcement about the distribution of funds. The grant comes with the solar powered recycling compactor, but she has been unable to find a town location for the device. She will check with the Athletic Club to see if they are interested.
5. Clark mentioned that Tim Holcomb from Amherst would like to attend one of our meetings to find out how Shutesbury has so much solar power.
6. Next meeting is December 5, 2011, 7 PM at the town hall. Becky will determine if Franklin County Transit Authority can meet with us. Becky said there was a program that will transport seniors one day a week into Amherst and back. Cost is \$1.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Rice