

Energy Committee Minutes

April 2, 2012

Present: Steve Rice, Larry Hunter, Bruce Davidson, and Becky Torres.

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM.

Agenda Items:

1. Minutes from the last meeting on 3/12/12 were reviewed and approved as amended.
2. Green Communities Act. Becky has been working on the RFPs for the school energy saving projects. Bids for the insulation of the I-beams and fan control work are due Wednesday. The building committee is still working on the specifications for the heating system in town hall and fire department. RFPs on the solar system went out and there have been a few inquiries. Hyperion may bid. They have different pole mounted system comprised of shorter poles with fewer panels. No concrete needed to hold poles in the ground.
3. Franklin County Transit Authority. No action taken
4. Free Tire Inflation Station at the Maintenance Building. On hold until Fire Station environmental issue is resolved.
5. SREC funds and Revolving account for Energy Committee. Not discussed.
6. Mass Energy Insight Data. Not discussed.
7. SES Energy Use. Debbie Lee is IT person. Becky found out that computers are turned off at night. AC unit in computer room is vented into the ceiling. The building committee should look into this and make recommendations. The school has 3 smart boards and turn off at night. The copiers go into sleep mode. Committee should visit the school at our next meeting to see if we can see anything that might make an impact. Bring watt meters if you have them. Becky agreed to schedule a visit. Steve agreed to contact Craig about a visit to the school to look at the air and vapor barriers and assess other insulation opportunities.
8. Town Hall Water Heater. The committee looked at the water heater at the town hall and found that it is a relatively new Ruud 40 gallon electrical heater. It's rated at 4775 estimated watts per year. It's probably well insulated since it is relatively new. There are issues with how long it takes water to get to the kitchen and bathrooms. The committee timed it and found it took 1 minute and 40 seconds for hot water to reach the tap at the kitchen. We estimated the water flow rate to be 2 gallons/min. It would take even longer for the hot water to reach the bathrooms further down the hall. Since the water use at these facilities is relatively minimal, the only reasonable option appears to be installing spot heaters at these locations. Steve agreed to research some on demand spot heaters.
9. Next meeting is May 7, 2012, 7 PM at the Shutesbury Elementary School. Agenda item will be school's electrical use.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Rice