

Shutesbury Energy Committee Meeting
April 4, 2011
Minutes

Attending: Larry Hunter, Clark Sylvester, Steve Rice, Bruce Davidson, and Becky Torres

The minutes from the previous meeting (3/7/11) were not read and approved without changes..

Old Business:

SREC Update –The select board signed the SREC contract. 93% of the total receipts will go to the town. The aggregator is Knollwood and we will get credited for power produced starting in August. It's a 2 year contract.

Citizens' Energy Solar Project on Pratt Corner Rd - The subject was rehashed since several members missed the February meeting when this was first discussed. They will need a special permit, since the proposed site is on Cows land and not land owned by the town. It's planned for 6 MW and is near a National Grid substation. According to the newspapers article, it's enough to power 700 homes. Shutesbury has 850 homes. By comparison, Mt. Tom electrical plant produces 140 MW. Since there was an inquiry by a Gazette reporter, Clark will call and respond to his questions.

Mass Energy Insight- According to Becky, this still needs more work for it to function properly. The committee looks forward to reviewing this information when it becomes available.

Solar PV – Cover for the PV disconnect. Becky will follow up with the custodian to see if he could build a cover for the switch. This is to prevent inadvertent disconnects due to snow falling off the roof.

Green Communities Act - In order to reapply we need to improve our plan for energy reduction. Bruce recommended that we start substituting 20-30% biodiesel in place of the current diesel fuel used in town maintenance vehicles. Bruce agreed to do some research on the feasibility of this replacement. Coop Power is building a biodiesel processing facility, so this may be a good option for some locally produced fuel. The energy use baseline also needs to include the fuel usage of all vehicles. Becky will look into getting a volunteer to enter the current hand written data from the vehicles logs. The select board will also need to endorse the energy reduction policy. Becky will modify the existing energy reduction policy and submit to the select board for a vote.

New Business:

IR Photos - We looked at some of the photos that Craig took of town hall, maintenance building, and library. Craig was not there to comment and interpret. Steve will ask Craig for help in organizing and interpreting the photos to determine next steps for sealing and insulating these buildings.

Franklin Regional Transit Authority - Becky is arranging a meeting with the town to work out a needs assessment survey. Since the FRTA does not go to Amherst, at some point we would need to work with the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority. The committee mentioned that there was a prior survey, perhaps 2007 Or 2008. We should review this again. Since transportation is a big expense for the town, this could be a good project to bring public transportation to Shutesbury.

Next Steps:

1. Becky will work on getting the Mass Insight system to correctly display the necessary information.
2. Bruce to research bio-fuels to determine if they are appropriate for Shutesbury maintenance vehicles.
3. Steve will contact Craig about reviewing the IR pictures.
4. Install cover on exterior solar disconnect switch. – Becky.

5. Modify Green Communities Act application energy reduction plan and obtain select board approval. –
Becky.
6. Find and review previous FRTA survey/needs assessment. Who?

Next meeting is Monday, May 2nd at 7 PM.