

Shutesbury Energy Committee Minutes

July 26, 2010

The meeting was convened at 7 PM.

Present: Larry Hunter, Clark Sylvester, Susan Reyes, Bruce Davidson, Steve Rice and Becky Torres

There were no prior meeting minutes to review or approve due to a lack of a quorum at the previous few meetings.

Election of Energy Committee chair and minute taker. Clark volunteered and was unanimously approved to assume the role of committee chair. Steve volunteered and was unanimously supported to take minutes of meetings for a period of one year and then the position would rotate to other committee members.

Old Business:

Green Communities: The committee has been asked to endorse the Green Communities Action plan. After some discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

Stretch Code: The stretch building code will be presented for a town vote at the Fall meeting and the energy committee has been asked for an endorsement. After some discussion about the differences between the 2009 building code, already passed, and the stretch code, the committee voted unanimously to support the stretch code.

New Business:

1. Solar photovoltaic uptake: Completion of the two remaining PV panels is pending a backlog of the panels from the supplier.
 - a. Becky provided the website to download the manual for the inverter.
 - b. Larry clarified the states requirements for monitoring the energy production. The meter only needs to be read once/month and the state sends out a reminder. Larry is currently doing the reporting on his own system. The town may get up to \$3600 credit per year for the full 10 kw system once it is up and running.
 - c. There is a need to install a net energy meter on the system by the power company. Becky will follow up with the power company.
2. New Alternative Energy Projects
 - a. We revisited the wind power project. The sentiment appears that there is currently little incentive to pursue new wind power projects due to the lack of rebates, higher costs, and a suitable site that is near enough to the power grid (substation) and has sufficient wind, and would not be a concern to neighbors.
 - b. There was some discussion on Flo-Design wind turbines developed locally. Apparently, these are still in the development phase with no known commercial units. The feasibility has yet to be demonstrated.

- c. Solar Panels for the school. This is a potential future project as the school has a good south facing roof. Currently, there are trees shading the roof, so these would need to be removed. Perhaps the solar panels could go on in conjunction with future maintenance on the roof (reroofing). The committee agreed to visit this project idea within one year.
- 3. Conservation Projects:
 - a. I didn't capture any on this, but there has been a lot of work done on the town hall.
- 4. Website: The town website was been redesigned and is operation under a new system. The energy committee page is missing. Becky will contact the webmaster to get it reinstated.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.