



TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY COMMITTEE

FINAL MINUTES: FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Members Present: ✓ Kevin Bligh ✓ Tom Hall, ✓ Carlton D. Hunt

Guest: Michael Dutton, Town Manager

The February 1, 2018 Energy Committee (EC) meeting was called to order at 36:30 PM in Room 201b of the Academy Building with a quorum present. The agenda was approved with a correction for the draft minutes for approval (Sep. 9, 2017 and Nov. 2, 2017).

There were no announcements or public comments.

The Sep. 9, 2017 and Nov. 2, 2017 minutes were approved (2/2) by voice vote, Kevin Bligh abstained.

Chair Hunt presented a series of graphs showing energy use and cost trends (attached) through December 2017. Building energy demand has been reduced by ~19 percent over the past five years. Conversion of traffic lights to LEDs have cut energy use in that category by ~70%. Energy consumption has been reduced significantly for police station, public library, and senior center as well as the water department and Golf Course. Gasoline and diesel use has increased since 2009 but appears to be leveling off.

The committee discussed the streetlight conversion to LED fixtures. The Town Manager indicated he has already requested NGRID provide a streetlight buyout proposal to the Town and committed to placing an Order on the Town Council agenda to transfer up to \$50K from an account that was established to use one-time money receipts on one-time projects. This will enable the Town to join the next streetlight conversion RFP managed for the state by MAPC. After considering the positive and negative aspects of the conversion, the committee reached a consensus to recommend the Town proceed with the project.

The committee also recommended that the Town submit the streetlight conversion project for partial funding through the Green Community program. Information provided by MAPC based on a current street light inventory estimated the total project cost of \$470K. State and NGRID incentives reduce the cost to ~\$273K. A successful Green Community competitive grant application would provide ~\$225K towards the project and ~\$25K for Green Community administrative costs. These incentives and grants would reduce the Town's financial outlay to ~\$95K spread over two fiscal years. The long-term savings to the town are estimated at ~150K/yr. with the lights providing improved visibility and safety, and possibly lighting areas that are not currently served by streetlights.

The Green Communities FY18 competitive procurement was released in late January with proposals due @5PM March 9, 2018. The EC Chair will meet with the newly hired Green Communities Coordinator, Mr. Andrew Sukeforth to review the RFP and plan the FY18 grant application. The Chair continues to communicate with the Regional School District about joining the Bridgewater Green Communities program. This will likely happen during FY18-FY19.

The committee discussed the interest and value of the Town going forward with the OCPC energy aggregation concept. It was decided to postpone this activity for the next year and focus on other energy projects.



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Town Manager gave support for Andrew Sukeforth to help develop the scope of services and RFP for a consultant to recommend options for installing solar power at the golf course. This could become the documentation for the FY19 CG competitive grant round.

The Green Communities application package identified a parcel abutting Elm street as a potential site for a renewable energy production, manufacturing, or research. The Town also owns an ~8-acre parcel accessible from Elm Street. He plans to look at potential uses of that land for energy related commercial development, possibly as a community solar field.

Discussion of other items not forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4PM, May 3, 2018 in Room 201B of the Academy Building.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlton D. Hunt, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Submitted by Carlton D. Hunt, Ph.D.,
EC Chair