

Green Energy Committee  
Minutes  
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Members Present: Jim Hutchinson, acting chair; John Snell, Sue Klem, Ann Risso, Ed Lang, Jonathan Soo

Town Administrator: Tim Higgins

Selectman: Jennifer Glass

Members of Mothers Out Front: Staci Montori

Others: Peter Watkinson, Ruth Ann Hendrickson, Belinda Gingrich, Roy Harvey, Tim Christenfeld, Gary Taylor, Jennie Morris, Ed Kern, Andy Falender, Alex Chatfield, Mark Deck, Buck Creel, Kim Bodner, Tom Walker, Lynne Smith

Absent: C.J. Valpone

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from July 12, 2018 were voted on and approved.

Minutes from December 5, 2018 were voted on and approved.

II. School Building Project

1. Solar PV PPA group

Jim Hutchinson said that the group is meeting weekly to get a PPA partner because of the need for speed to capture the declining solar incentives and because the design team is eager to have someone to talk to about being solar ready, such as locations of inverters and conduits to the parking lot. They are working to capture the federal incentives and be in the Smart Program.

2. Sustainability group

Ed Lang said the Owners' Project Requirements group is now called the Sustainability Committee. An energy efficient building wasn't even being considered the last time the school building was being planned. Now they are being asked to be Net Zero. The SMMA has a LEED checklist and want to stay within their budget. Though there is monitoring equipment built into all the major equipment pieces the SMMA has not committed to verifying that all the pieces work efficiently together.

Tim Christenfeld said that there are other Net Zero buildings and there will be other schools on line by the time our school is opened but we will be the first Net Zero renovation. There will be challenges to managing the use of the building but there will be monitors for each system to gauge their performance. SMMA has a huge commercial interest in making this work.

III. Library Air Conditioner Replacement

John Snell reminded us that the town approved funds to replace the AC on the roof of the library. This was an opportunity for a clean heating and cooling system to be installed. John

met with contractors and presented a proposal for a ground source heat pump system. The system wouldn't cost more but the initial expense would be higher until the town received the money from the incentives, \$140k from the Green Community Fund and \$120k from the state of Massachusetts. The Library Trustees have chosen to replace just the AC system for which they have a budget.

John pointed out that there is also the problem of technology bias. The library was told 5 years ago that Geothermal would not work. It is hard to overcome old misconceptions.

On the bright side, the library has reduced their footprint more than any other building in town.

Ruth Ann Hendrickson pointed out the water department needs a new AC and it's really hard to plan. When the AC needs replacing, it needs to be done urgently.

Jim Hutchinson said that one goal of the Finance Committee is to get all departments to have a plan for maintenance and replacement of their capital equipment so that we have fewer budget surprises.

Jennie Morris said that the industry is changing and is working to put the incentives with the distributors so schools and libraries don't need to carry the burden of the extra expense until the incentive is paid out.

#### IV. Residential efforts

Sue Klem said that her residential group plans to finish promoting Home Energy Assessments at the eight condo developments in town which comprise 300 units. They have tried going to the condominium boards but the boards have many regulations and it is very complex. It is a microcosm of the town.

#### V. Community Choice Aggregation

CJ Valpone was unable to attend but sent an email to Peter Watkinson that the next step is review by the Department of Public Utilities, which is an approximately 8-month process. About half -way through the process, we will start public outreach. According to Peregrine Energy Group 98 % of residents choose the default option for the percent of renewably sourced electricity for their utility bill. Tim Higgins said that Newton has 60% for their default with a 100% option and Brookline offers 40% by default with a 100% option.

#### VI. New Energy Plan

We already have in place the 2008 Energy Performance Standard which requires that new construction and major renovations be designed to cut our municipal building fossil fuel energy consumption by 80% by 2020 and 100% by 2030.

Peter said that First Parish has 20 parishioners who have bought EV's and 20 have Made the Switch to 100% renewable electricity.

VII. Landfill Solar Project

Tim Higgins lamented that it is a town, state, and federal project. Town council believed that Lincoln had a town easement into the Transfer Station but the National Park Service said we didn't have access. We opted not to go to court over the issue. Using Mill Street for access is prohibitively expensive and the neighbors already feel under siege from the Minuteman HS project. Tim shifted his focus to Codman and the Public Safety building. Codman has a 40KW system planned which they are raising money for and it will be owned by the farm. The current bylaw is out of step with Codman Farm so that will need to be revised. The public safety building is looking at a PPA.

Tim Higgins acknowledged that John Snell did significant work to push the landfill project forward. Nancy, the superintendent at the NPS, has retired and we are now working with the new superintendent to get approval in Washington. Tim will return attention to this in the fall.

Jim Hutchinson asked if there was some way to start the Public Safety installation so that we can be sure to get the solar incentives for the school such as buying inverters if we combine projects. Peter Watkinson said there is a 5% safe harbor rule to plant your flag and you have 4 years to complete the school project.

VIII. GEC leadership

Peter Watkinson volunteered to chair the Green Energy Committee going forward.

A motion was made to install Peter Watkinson as Chair of the Green Energy Committee. The members voted and approved.

John Snell was the first chair of the committee and has served for over a decade. John got the Energy bylaw passed; he won us Green Community designation; town energy consumption is down 17% in public buildings and 12% including the water department and street lights; he worked to get the Net Zero school building passed; he has raised huge amounts of money as a grant harvester; we were one of the first 17 towns with Green Community designation and now there are 200+. It's much harder to get grants now but we were getting \$250k/ year for green projects.

Tim Higgins added that John is a great harvester of volunteers, creating a movement and getting people to step up to do the work.

Tom Walker from First Parish said John has helped the church move forward on being green.

Sue Klem praised John's knowledge base and view of the larger picture. He led her to services for the residential community. She also said John was great about reaching out to include other organizations like Mothers out Front, the L-S Environmental Club, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade environmental warrant articles.

Andy Falender spoke about John as an individual who helped him make decisions to get Solar PV, Air Sourced Heat Pumps, and an EV.

Tim Christenfeld said John was great at finding grant funding and consultants. He was able to understand what was possible and achievable on Net Zero buildings and specifics on how to get there.

Jennifer Glass said John had done a successful infiltration into all the committees in town. He is passionate and has created exponential growth of his ideas into the town.

Kim Bodner said John's passion that "this is the right thing to do" resonated with the school building committee.

Buck Creel enthused about John's work over a decade making energy goals and finding the financial support to make them happen.

Lynne Smith told the story of how her neighborhood formed a Low Carbon Diet group in 2009 and John came because they had pizza. John was concerned about the municipal front but he raised money and supported their residential efforts.

Jennie Morris exclaimed how great John was about the statistics, checking how we compared against other towns in the region.

Ann Risso added her appreciation of John's breadth of knowledge from eating locally to a much bigger picture.

John added a thank you to Gary Taylor, Sarah Cannon Holden, and Sara Mattes Ritz, recalling that the Green Energy Technology Committee was created when they were selectmen.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 am for the celebration of John and of what Lincoln is and will continue to be.

Submitted by Belinda Gingrich