

**Green Energy Committee**  
**8:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 19, 2019**  
**Town Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room**

**Attending**

--

Peter Watkinson  
Anne Risso  
Sue Klem  
Jonathan Soo  
C. J. Volpone

Jennifer Glass  
Tim Christenfeld  
Jim Hutchinson  
Roy Harvey  
Ruth Ann Hendrickson

Leaf Blower Committee

- Jamie Banks
- Robin Wilkerson

Paul Shorb  
Alex Chatfield

---

**Scheduled: Next Meeting, April 4th, 8AM.**

**Previous meeting minutes by Ed Kern were approved unanimously.**

--

**Topic: Proposed Leaf Blower Bylaw**

Jamie and Robin from the Leaf Blower Committee asked the GEC to support the proposed leaf blower bylaw and answered questions about the proposed bylaw.

Q: What kind of emissions do these leaf blowers produce? A: Some types of emissions from a half-hour use of two-stroke leaf blowers are comparable to driving a truck 4,000 miles or more.

Q: Do these cover other types of 2-stroke engines? A: There are very few four-stroke leaf blowers available. Some two-stroke devices of other types (i.e. chainsaws) exist but are not

used at the same level and will be unaffected by the bylaw. Reason for focusing on leaf blowers is the level of noise at varying frequencies.

Q: How much quieter are electric blowers? A: Have a study from a manufacturer but not at hand. The sound from gasoline leaf-blowers appears to carry further than electric leaf blowers.

Q: How do the Sunday restrictions work? A: Intent is to have a single leaf blower used by a resident. Also added an ability to get single-day exemptions for special situations such as preparing for a wedding.

Q: What about the natural resources aspect? A: The natural resources aspect is de-emphasized - the intent is to avoid appearing judgmental about whether people should be leaf blowing or not.

Q: What about larger non-handheld leaf blowers? A: Those are typically used in fall cleanups and would be allowed at those times. The bigger hope is that this will encourage residents to use contractors that use electric equipment.

Q: What are the relative costs of electric leaf blowers? A: (from Alex) Recently able to purchase a top-rated battery powered leaf blower for \$190 online, appears to have good performance. In some cases batteries will be shared with other types of battery powered tools.

Q: What kind of incentives exist to encourage use of electric leaf blowers? A: There have been some kinds of swaps, rebates, and discounts at the municipal and state level, sometimes provided by distributors.

**Proposed: To endorse the proposed Leaf Blower Bylaw with the statement "In order to support the Green Energy Committee's long-term goal of eliminating the use of fossil fuels in the Town of Lincoln, the Green Energy Committee supports the proposed Leaf Blower Bylaw".**

**Approved Unanimously.**

Discussion: What kind of participation is required by GEC at town meeting in relation to proposed bylaw? The chair will contact Town Moderator Sarah Canon Holden by person or via e-mail to let her know that the GEC wishes to provide a 30 second statement after the Leaf Blower Committee's presentation.

---

**Topic: Proposed Solar Bylaw Amendments**

Q: What kind of changes are being proposed? A: PPAs are now allowed for all projects, residential, municipal or commercial. There will be a waiver process with the Planning Board for unanticipated circumstances. There is a new restriction related to ground-mount solar

installations: for projects with ground-mounted solar panels, the total output including rooftop and ground-mount will be limited to a maximum of 125% of the expected residential usage. This applies only to projects with ground-mount solar; projects with exclusively roof-mounted solar will have no limit.

**Proposed: To endorse the proposed Solar Bylaw amendment with the statement "In order to support solar projects in the Town of Lincoln, including the school project, and to support the Green Energy Committee's long term goal of eliminating the use of fossil fuels in the Town of Lincoln, the Green Energy Committee supports the proposed amendments to the Solar Bylaw".**

**Approved Unanimously.**

---

**Topic: GEC Participation in voting for the International Energy Conservation Code**

Paul Shorb: The GEC has an opportunity to be involved in helping to set the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). This code is used by several countries and US states, and members can vote on proposed updates. The GEC can register as a governmental body for \$135 and would vote online in November with up to four votes.

Jennifer Glass: Talking with the housing inspector, the town itself is already registered as a governmental member. She and the housing inspector will be registered to vote, and there will be two additional slots available for that membership. At a state level, Massachusetts has a law in place saying that it will follow the energy efficiency section of the IECC.

Q: Should the GEC ask for the two town votes, or can it register on its own? A: The GEC as a relevant town committee can register on its own and get four votes. There are funds to pay for the registration. Assignment of the votes and voting decisions can happen at a later meeting.

Q: Since this is an international building code, should the GEC see this as something that it ought to participate in? A: While the reach of the IECC is international, this also has an impact on the building code that Lincoln will have in a few years. It's also a way to have a broader impact on the environment. A large number of Massachusetts municipalities are participating.

**Proposed: That the GEC register as a governmental member to vote on the International Energy Conservation Code.**

**Approved Unanimously**

---

**Topic: Town Meeting reports and other updates**

Sue: Green Community proposals are due. In the past, John Snell was very involved - we should try to have someone for the future.

Ruth Ann: It doesn't appear that the school project will be able to meet the Green Community requirements in time - funding is first-come first-serve, and the program will run out of money.

Tim: Daedalus is responsible for applying for the grant, and they say it may be possible to complete the proposal in time.

Peter: Funding is dropping off in general, projects are now expected to stand more on their own. The good news is that projects are more viable now.

---

**Topic: PPA Committee (Peter)**

The PPA committee expects that the school will be able to generate more solar electricity than is needed, even with the required performance contingency. The committee expects that it will work with Sunpower and Power Options. Much depends on what Eversource does; we may need to provide some pressure through state reps and DOER.

---

**Topic: Aggregation (C. J.)**

The DPU hearing went well and we are in the approval pipeline. We need to start thinking about the details of the program, but the GEC doesn't need to be directly involved for a few months.

---

**Topic: Residential (Sue)**

No major news, focusing on Condominiums.

---

**Topic: Data Collection (Peter)**

Hoping to get data from a CO2 emissions perspective, not just electricity consumption.

Q: Is calculating this just a multiplier from consumption? A: Hoping to get residential and transportation emissions also, which is more difficult.

---

**Topic: Solar Projects (Peter)**

There are a number of solar projects moving forward in town:

Codman Farm (grant requires completion in Q2) - 60KW on barn roof. Also got grant for heat pump. Working hard to become carbon neutral - tractors are hard, but other EVs may be possible.

RLF - waiting for Solar Bylaw update to start on parking lot solar. Have a number of bids, 250KW.

First Parish - 20KW

Transfer Station - many issues, will be looked at in the fall.

--

**Topic: EV Charging (Roy)**

Collecting info on installation companies and rebates.

There will be an EV Test Drive May 19<sup>th</sup> at the First Parish in Lincoln.

--

**Meeting Adjourned**