WT Energy Committee

Minutes

11.10.20

Present: Richard Andre, Nicola Blake, Ron Dagostino, Sue Hruby, Rebekah Thomson, Kate Warner. Geoff Freeman (guest- Airport Manager)

1. Minutes of Oct 13 approved unanimously.

2. Richard presented information on PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy)

* Would require a town meeting vote for it to be adopted
* enables commercial, non-profit and multi-unit dwelling property owners to access financing for renewable energy projects and related upgrades like air-sealing, insulation
* a lien is put on the property that supersedes all other loans on the property
* Town levies a property tax on the property to pay back loan

Richard will look into this further to see what kinds of towns have adopted and if other towns have gotten good benefit from it

3. Members of the Committee have taken on the role of representing us at these meetings:

Cape Light Compact Sue Hruby

VSEC Ron Dagostino

Green Communities Ron Dagostino, Nicola Blake

MVC CATF Kate Warner

School Board Mtgs Rebekah Thomson

VTA Working Group Richard Andre

WT Affordable Hsg Nicola Blake

(CVEC Jen Rand is our representative)

4. Kate presented information about resilience grant work. 2 engineers came down here and looked at the 6 buildings (PS Building, F Station 1, Library, Howe's House, Town Hall, School) on Friday. Found various energy usage issues.

5. Sue presented about Green Communities report. Not user friendly. Got report adjusted to reflect where buildings had been made larger. Adjusted comparison still just shows 9% improvement when we were close to 20%.

Also need to get feedback to the managers of buildings as to their energy use and encourage them to do better.

Nicola, Ron, Sue, Kate to have an interim meeting for Sue to teach us more about the GC program and reporting so that Ron and Nicola can take over.

6. Process has begun for school to be added to Green Communities list. Margaret Song has been helping gather together previous audit information and to see how school could meet the 20% energy reduction goal. Next step would be approval by Up-Island School District and Selectmen to agree to add school to GC list and to agree that the one vehicle meet the GC requirements. (this vehicle has already been subject to this when Chilmark adopted GC.)

7. Sue reported that Cape Light Compact has a Rural Energy Savings Program. Low interest loan. 50-100 loans available. 3-5% interest rate over 10 years. For energy efficiency efforts.

Question of how different than HEAT loan.

Ron said HEAT loan is interest-free up to $25,000. 7 year loan.

*The HEAT loan is a Mass Save/Clean Energy Center program administered by the Cape Light Compact.*

8. Town website. Jen Rand willing to add 2 more buttons under "Action Center." Would have to be very careful about what was put there.

9. Geoff Freeman reported on interest by Airport, in climate initiatives.

* Looking at solar for Emergency Building.
* Looking at Terminal and after renovations/repairs, maybe solar there and in other places.
* Mentioned that glass case near restaurant could be used for posting climate information
* Richard mentioned about rental car area and having EV charging there and a canopy of solar.

10. Charging station by Howes House

Sue working with Eversource on location. Should be done by Spring if not before.

11. Handouts to get 100% Renewable initiative rolling.

Kate prepared a draft of an Air Source Heat Pump handout. Proposed to do one that is an introduction to the overall goal.

Sue suggested Kate talk to Joe Tierney about ASHP handout.

**Question of how to promote this effort, particularly given virus.**

12. Kate asked the group if they would like Geoff Freeman to join the Committee. All agreed enthusiastically.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next meeting is Tuesday Dec 8, 8:30 am.