

WT Energy Committee
Minutes
2.9.21

Present: Richard Andre, Nicola Blake, Ron Dagostino, Geoff Freeman, Sue Hruby, Rebekah Thomson, Kate Warner.

Guest: Marc Rosenbaum

1. **Marc Rosenbaum** gave a presentation of his background and work. He is a mechanical engineer with 40+ years experience. He is interested in the long-term energy performance of buildings. He looks at thermal enclosures, building systems and renewable energy opportunities. He is currently working with Northampton as part of a consultant team on project entitled "Design Services for Capital Improvements to Move 7 Buildings to Net Zero." Work includes learning what the deficiencies of each building are (maintenance costs, problems that building managers have, adverse issues for building users). They look at the thermal envelope of each building, the mechanical systems including where they are housed, the building heat loss, among other things.

- Marc would like the island to have a person on staff (at the MV Commission or County) that can analyze our municipal buildings and determine steps to improving buildings as we move towards all-electric. He would like this be a younger person who he can offer guidance to.
- Marc suggests we issue an RFP to study one of our Town buildings. School seems the most obvious choice. And from that study, we develop a master plan for the building that specifies: desired thermal enclosure and systems to be used, our goals as to desired outcome and a roadmap to get there.
- His general question when deciding how to improve buildings: "**Where does the next dollar do the most good?**"
- Marc is willing to help us draft the RFP and to help interview candidates to do the work.
- Sue suggested maybe we could ask for Green Communities funds to do this. *(would have to be a fall submission as we haven't spent our current money yet so are not eligible to apply for more funds)*

2. **Minutes** of Jan 11 approved by all present. (Geoff Freeman had left the meeting.)

3. **Possible Library Solar Canopy.** Discussed pros and cons of this idea. Decision was made to not go ahead with this at this time: to focus on the Library roof project and on learning from that before we go on to other things. Some benefits of the canopy would be shaded parking in times of hot summer sun, opportunity for greater amounts of EV charging in that area. Kate will write a letter (to be edited by Ron) to be sent to the Selectmen, Library Trustees and Historic Commission saying we have decided not to go forward with this project at this time.

4. **Green Communities** application re School. State has never had a town ask to add a building. Kate, Margaret Song and an intern- both for the Cape Light Compact, have

amended the 2011 document as instructed by the GC coordinator. It is being reviewed by GC now and if it looks good, needs to be approved by the Superintendent's office, the Up-Island Regional School Committee and the Selectmen.

5. **VTA bus battery bank.** Best way forward is still being researched. Underground installation is out due to possible water issues. Angie Grant will provide more information once she has determined what might be possible.

As part of these discussions, issues about fear by community members of **lithium-ion batteries** came up. We will need to educate the town about batteries as we go forward.

6. Questions about some of the items that will appear on **Town Meeting warrant.** Kate asked to find out about the \$257,000 being asked for to repair the school flat roof.

7. Nicola is working with Sue on an application for **2 more EV chargers** that would be at the School. The Principal has approved this idea. If we can get the grant, the equipment and installation would be free.

8. We agreed to meet every 3 weeks from this point forward, while we have so much on our agenda. The meeting dates are as follows:

March 2 and 23

April 13

May 4 and 25

June 15

July 6 and 27

August 17

September 7 and 28

October 19

November 9 and 30

December 21

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next meeting is Tuesday March 2, 8:30 am.

Upcoming topics

RT will update us on the EV school buses

NB will update us on the school EV charger application

KW will update us on school roof situation

and possibly on CVEC

