



Town of Coventry

Energy Conservation/Alternative Energy Committee

Meeting February 3, 2016 6:15 PM

**Members Present:** Jennifer Reilly, Mark Keifer, Danielle Kloster, Matt Mullen, Andy DePalma

**Members Absent:** Brandon Bradley, Tim Sadler

**Audience of Citizens:** N/A

**Call to Order:** Jenn Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Matt Mullen moved to approve the minutes from January 6<sup>th</sup> and Jenn Reilly seconded the motion, there was no discussion, all were in favor.

**Old Business:**

Mark Keifer reported that the light at the end of DPW driveway has been repaired.

Jenn Reilly reported that the EMME (Energy Management Made Easy system) installation is in the final stages at Town Hall and that John Elsesser is planning to replace the Town Hall boiler in the summer. Lantern Energy is working to change out some of the lighting in Town Hall to improve energy efficiency.

Jenn Reilly reported that John Elsesser is meeting with representatives from the natural gas utility this Friday to talk more about the estimated cost of bring a natural gas pipeline to town residents.

Mark Keifer reported that the solar street light installations in Patriot's Park are complete and drivers that were not working have been replaced. There will be minor tree trimming in the spring to improve sunlight on the panels.

Jenn Reilly reported that the Town Hall and Police Department solar carports are still having issues with rainwater dripping through the gaps between panels and that she would talk to Encon to see if they had any suggestions to solve the dripping.

Jenn Reilly reported that the solar project at the North Coventry Fire Station has completed the permitting process and installation may begin soon.

Mark Keifer reported that John Elsesser has been meeting with Eversource to clear up issues with the LED streetlights that were installed on Main Street and Boston Turnpike.

Jenn Reilly reported that Tim Sadler contacted the superintendent of schools to explain possibility opportunities from EESmarts and got a positive response. Several teachers indicated that they were interested in some of the programs offered.

Jenn Reilly reported that John Elsesser hired an intern to obtain energy data for benchmarking energy use in town buildings.

Matt Mullen reported that the Building Committee has identified a firm for renovations and is negotiating a contract. They will have conceptual plans done by Summer 2016.

Jenn Reilly reported that there are issues with the solar panels at the high school, which are not producing the energy savings that were estimated. Dave Petrone is working with Tim Sadler to resolve the issue.

Jenn Reilly reported that John Elsesser locked in oil/diesel and gas prices for next year at competitive rates and is going out for multi-year electricity bids in March.

Mark Keifer reported that he is nominating the energy committee for the Green Circle Sustainability Award offered by DEEP.

### **New Business**

Jenn Reilly reported that DEEP is currently offering EV charger and plug-in vehicle grants to municipalities. DEEP is offering up to \$10,000 per charger and up to \$15,000 per vehicle. There was discussion on other locations in town in which an EV charger might be useful. The committee agreed that a charger at Coventry High School might be ideal because the charger at the Town Hall is well used.

Jenn Reilly reported that a Recycling Incentive grant program is also available from DEEP. Mark Keifer reported that the town is very successful in its recycling efforts and currently recycles 39% of waste. Public Works is considering implementing an organic composting program at the high school and are also considering other possible waste streams that could be taken at the transfer station. Jenn Reilly will speak to John Elsesser about the potential of the committee helping to implement a composting pilot project at the high school that focuses on organics.

Jenn Reilly reported that there is a gathering at North Haven for Clean Energy Task Forces across the state this Saturday, February 6.

The committee discussed edits on the draft of the town's energy policy. Danielle Kloster offered to apply the committee's edits to the document and the committee will revisit this item next month.

The next meeting will be March 2, 2016 at 6:15 PM.

Jenn Reilly called the meeting to a close at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Kloster

Secretary