



Town of Coventry
Energy Conservation/Alternative Energy Committee
Meeting April 6, 2016 6:15 PM

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

Members Absent: Brandon Bradley, Tim Sadler, Andy DePalma

Audience of Citizens: N/A

Call to Order: Jenn Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Matt Mullen moved to approve the minutes from March 2nd and Jenn Reilly seconded the motion, there was no discussion, all were in favor.

Old Business:

Jenn Reilly reported that the LED lights in Patriots Park are completed. Two of the solar lights in the park have some problems and Tim Ackert is still working on them. The town is waiting for pricing before converting the community center to LEDs. Mark Keifer reported that if the cost is high the town will convert sections of lights as they can with grants.

Jenn Reilly informed the committee that the Town Hall has received the LED conversion pricing. The conversion will cost more than the Bright Idea grant, so the town will choose which areas to convert first. John Elsesser requested the help of committee in determining which areas might be best for the first round of conversions. Matt Mullen suggested choosing the areas where the lights are on for the longest amount of time during the day (e.g., the tax collector's office, offices that are open all day). Mark Keifer suggested the conference rooms because they are used at night for meetings.

Jenn Reilly reported that the LED streetlight project is waiting on Eversource to fill in the lights that were missed on Main Street.

Jenn Reilly updated the committee that the boiler replacement at Town Hall can be converted to natural gas if a pipeline comes to town.

Jenn Reilly reported that the Energy Management Made Easy duct system at Town Hall seems to be working at evening out the heat distribution in the building.

The committee discussed partnering with contractors and working with the Town Council to sign a letter for residents informing them about Home Energy Solution energy audits. Jenn Reilly will work with Town Hall and the Town Council to get a letter drawn up. It was discussed that it might be good to send a reminder HES letter in late summer or early fall because that's when home energy upgrades are on most people's minds.

Tim Sadler reported via email that the issue of rain dripping through the solar carport at the police station has been resolved using aluminum tape to cover the gaps between panels.

Tim Sadler also reported that the concerns about the solar panels at the high school consuming excessive electricity have been resolved. The rise in electricity demand at the high school was due to the preschool annex, which uses electric heat, not the panels. A test meter showed that the solar panels were working as expected.

Jenn Reilly reported that Coventry High School put in an application to DEEP for an EV station through the state's EVConnecticut program.

Jenn Reilly reported that she recently had a conference call with Smart Power about doing another round of Solarize in the town. She learned during that conference call that the town would not have to go through the selection process of picking a vendor again and can elect to use Encon, which was the vendor during the last round of Solarize. The committee recommends to the town that we move forward with our application due April 10 and the committee is willing to help the town in promoting Solarize.

Jenn Reilly updated that there is an offer to bring natural gas into the town through Connecticut Natural Gas. The construction cost of the pipeline is \$2,887,000, which will be subsidized by the gas company. The town will pay a total of \$639,200 paid out over 7 years in annual installments of \$90,000 (no interest). The high school, town hall, fire and police departments would need to be connected to natural gas. The construction costs do not include the costs of facility conversions to new heating systems or the costs of hiring crews to patch the roads that are impacted by installation. The committee recommends that the Town proceed with the pipeline proposal pending due diligence of all the costs involved. We support bringing gas in to replace oil for both the town buildings and residences, as this will allow for more energy efficient systems to be installed and will save the town money over time.

Jenn Reilly reported that John Elsesser's intern got a full time job so there is no longer an intern available for energy projects.

Mark Keifer reported that department of public works is in the process of getting ready to discuss the trash pick-up contracts but nothing can be decided until they have those conversations. In the last meeting, the committee had discussed the possibility of changing recycling pick-up to be on a weekly basis rather than bi-weekly. Mark will ask get pricing information and report back to the committee. Matt Mullen suggested that it may be possible for residents to "opt-in" to weekly recycling pick-up and pay extra.

Jenn Reilly reminded the committee that the Coventry Farmers' Market will be starting in June. The committee will discuss tabling options at the next meeting.

New Business

Jenn Reilly reported that DEEP's climate initiative groups are offering climate change webinars and she can send information to the committee if interested.

Matt Mullen informed the committee that he will be moving out of Coventry and this was his last committee meeting. He will send in a resignation letter and needs to be replaced on the building committee. Danielle Kloster will attend the building committee meeting with Matt on April 20.

The committee discussed that with Matt Mullen's resignation the committee is in need of a new member to fill his vacancy.

Energy Policy

The committee completed drafting the energy policy and Jenn Reilly will discuss with John Elsesser the next steps in moving this document forward.

The next meeting will be May 4, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the DPW facility.

Jenn Reilly called the meeting to a close at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Kloster
Secretary