



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

MINUTES OF MEETING GREEN ASHLAND AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2012

Location: Town Hall Lower Level Meeting Room

Present:

Carl Hakansson (Chair)
Alan Weene (Vice-Chair)
Matthew Marshquist (Recording Clerk)
Marcia Reni
Brett Walker
Preston Crow (ex-officio member)
Kevin Johnson (ex-officio member)

David Manugian, Town Planner

Carl called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

We began by reviewing the discussion with local builder and resident Steven Hickey at the previous meeting. (See meeting minutes for March 29th.)

Checking in with the other criteria for Green Community status, the Board of Selectmen approved the car purchasing policy as well as Superintendent Barbara Durrand.

For the town meeting we will not be doing a PPT. Carl will give executive summary of what we are doing and how the warrant article ties into that.

We do have an article going into the next issue of Directions. The word limit is 250 words.

Brett asked about the press releases, recommending we should be communicating to the public about the stretch code. We discussed the pros and cons of providing more information to the public than we currently are. The committee has held two public hearings, presented to the Board of Selectmen, done a show on WACA and written an article in Directions. Brett's original draft for Directions contained a fair summary of the opposing viewpoint on the

stretch code, but it is not necessarily the role of this committee to make the other side's argument for them. Brett made the point that we should be providing information to the public so they can make an informed decision, but not necessarily making the decision for them.

David Manugian will be at town meeting. He may be able to respond to questions regarding the zoning bylaw and as of right siting for renewable energy.

Preston noted that the planning board is about to hear a proposal for a solar installation near the AM towers on 126. The owner of the project is Boyce holdings, who is hiring Solar Flair. The as of right siting will help the project to go forward.

Brett asked if there were any issues at town meeting which could impact turnout. One issue might be scenic roads. This is adding streets to our current bylaw, rather than approving a new scenic roads bylaw.

Carl updated the committee on the energy audit for the town. Carl asked Mark to put out a feeler to Guardian for how much it would cost to pay for the audit if they are not going to be utilized for any of the upgrades, but the cost was higher than we were hoping.

Mark will probably work with Peregrine, they may be able to do everything we need and do it on schedule. Peregrine will be serving as the project manager with Ameresco, overseeing the audit. Peregrine will do a quick audit, somewhat like guardian, before the more detailed work that Ameresco will do. They will do a walk through of all our facilities on Tuesday and Wednesday from 8-5:30. Kevin will be assisting them with this.

Steve Weisman from Peregrine was concerned about our making the required 20% based on the info he has on our buildings.

Preston suggested that including a new fire and police station in the plan may help to get us to 20%.

We may also be able to reach greater reductions through behavioral changes. We should mention this even if it is difficult to quantify precisely.

Marcia volunteered to help with writing the basic introduction for the plan.

Brett had one idea for encouraging behavioral change. It might be hard to do enforcement, but once a month we could select a public building and do an energy audit, giving suggestions for energy savings. Although this committee is primarily tasked with fulfilling the criteria for Green Community Designation, the Board of Selectmen may create a continuing green committee to monitor the implementation of the plan. It could be helpful to have a presence "on the ground" not necessarily to penalize, but to reinforce positive behavior.

The policy at CVS is that if employees put too much recycling in the trash, it goes back to them and they have to sort it.

Other ideas:

- Determine what the behaviors are that will save the most energy and create a checklist.
- Have a suggestion of the week.
- Give out green frog awards.
- Have contest at school in beginning of year develop good habits.

The Regional Green Communities Coordinator, Joanne Bisette, said most applications need revision, we will provide a draft for review before the 29th. Matt will provide a draft of the energy baseline, Preston will provide the text of the vehicle purchasing policy and town meeting warrant.

Our next meeting was set for Monday May 7th at 7pm.