



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

MINUTES OF MEETING GREEN ASHLAND AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2012

Location: Town Hall Lower Level Meeting Room

Present:

Carl Hakansson (Chair)
Matthew Marshquist (Recording Clerk)
Kevin Johnson
Marcia Reni
Brett Walker
David Manugian (Town Planner)
Chip Goudrea
Allyssa Kamataris

Before the meeting officially commenced, Chip Goudreau and Alyssa Kamataris of Guardian Energy Management in Marlborough discussed how they may be able to assist the town with energy audits, energy reduction plans, grant applications or performing the actual energy reduction measures.

From a press release on the company: A full service energy efficiency solutions provider, Guardian Energy Management Solutions™ helps organizations identify energy waste and cut their utility expenses. Guardian provides energy waste assessments, energy management software, metering and sub-metering devices, variable frequency drives, power factor optimization devices and indexed electricity contracts. Guardian also provides monitoring and management services designed to manage energy consumption over the long-term.

The services they provide are 1/3 consulting, 1/3 software, and 1/3 electrical contracting.

The company has experience with Green Communities. Chip serves on Topsfield's equivalent to the green committee. They worked with the following towns on energy reduction and/or Green Communities: Medford, Maynard, Topsfield, Amesbury, Mendon, Berlin, Greenfield.

Guardian Energy Management will perform energy audits and consult free of charge. They charge for the contracting work to perform electrical and other equipment upgrades. There is no requirement to use the company for the energy upgrades if they perform energy audits. A

performance contract is also available. The advantage of working with Guardian vs. the DOER would be that Guardian would take you through steps 1-3 of the process, including energy reduction plans and grant applications, rather than just providing a high level audit.

Other notes: In some cases, they will place digital loggers in a room to record data about energy use. This would help in situations where individual metering is not available. One challenge for implementing new HVAC systems at schools is the need for staff who have time to run the advanced software systems, this can be a part time job in itself. In terms of behavior change, they find that it helps to involve the residents of the building in decisions where possible.

The meeting was officially called to order after all voting members had arrived at 7:45pm

Marcia motioned to approve minutes, with a slight change to wording recommended.

Brett seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

The Builders' Forum on the stretch code:

The Builders' forum will take place Tuesday March 6th 3pm-5pm at the Ashland Public Library.

Preston recommended via email that we reach out to affected town committees regarding the Builders' forum. David has spoken with most of the builders in town who would be affected. Carl recommended talking with Mike Kane as well, who has a subdivision in the works.

David shared his impression, that some of the builders may not be for the stretch code, though they may not want to make a public statement against it. The stretch code stays a step ahead of the general building code. A builder who is already building to the stretch code would have to revamp their process next year, rather than being able to coast for a few years until next years' stretch code becomes the state code in 2015.

The Builders' forum will likely be a smaller setting than the public forum. From our committee, Marcia Reni and Preston Crow will be in attendance, with David Manugian participating in the first half.

Public Forum on the Stretch Code:

The forum will take place March 14th, 7-9pm at the Ashland Public Library.

Carl has sent an announcement to Directions. Carl, Preston and Matt appeared on "sitting with the selectmen" to discuss the Green Communities Act and the work of the committee in general. We may want to write a letter to the paper, but this would most likely be something we can assess after the public hearing on the stretch code.

The committee discussed the options for promoting the stretch code events. Using town signage was dismissed, as the information is too complicated to reduce to the length of a sign. It is hard to summarize in poster form.

There is now a public access TV show on air about the Green Committee, there will be a builders' forum on the stretch code, a public forum on the stretch code, a hearing before the selectmen and most likely some news item before the town meeting, so there will be visibility for the issue. At the same time, it is critical that we reach out to the key supporters of sustainability in town, to ensure that they participate at town meeting.

The committee will likely write a longer article or opinion piece before town meeting on the stretch code. We will wait until after our presentation to the board of selectmen to make a decision on the timing of this.

Carl will share the wording of the vehicle policy with the group for review before the Board of Selectmen meeting.

Kevin mentioned that Mark Purple is evaluating using Enesco(?) to do an audit of all the town buildings. This may be done on a fee per square footage percentage basis. We may want to coordinate our efforts with him on this as it could impact our energy reduction plan. The timing may work for our purposes, however Guardian Energy Management may also provide assistance with drafting our energy reduction plan and grant applications.

Regarding the baseline, there is additional data which we may need from the town, the gasoline and diesel purchases are only entered up to year 2009, although we do have usage per vehicle, we do not have the price paid for these periods. Matt will follow up with the town on whether we can gain access to this data.

2011 seems likely to be the baseline year for our town. Marcia noted that other towns have used slightly different time periods for data from different departments within the town.

Finally it was agreed that if Preston is not writing the warrant article for town meeting, Brett will do this, having it ready by March 15th.

Matt made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Brett. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.