

Energy Committee Minutes 12/14/11

7pm - 8:45 pm

Present: Suzy Hodgson, Anne Bijur, Michelle Lussier, Jen Chiodo, Catherine Hughes

Minute Taker: Catherine Hughes

November minutes were approved, with a minor modification.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Michelle attempted to program the TED Energy monitors at the Town Hall. Due to a poor wireless signal and router issues, she was unable to achieve success. Committee members talked about meeting at the Senior Center for the next meeting, where TED monitors also need to be installed. Catherine will find out where the router and TED unit is there.

Lessons Learned Regarding the Solar Tracking System that was to be built on Town Land:

- Members appreciated the hard work of the Selectboard.
- Jen pointed out that the Town Plan has a lot of language protecting Thompson's Point. The Committee also discussed a large private solar project being proposed for the Hinesburg Road in Charlotte and wondered if the land is prime agricultural or clay plan?
 - Thompson's Point land should be marked as conserved if it is. The "Conserved and Public Land, July 2010" map at the Town Hall does not show this.
 - Anne noted that the whole process was too quick – more time would have been helpful. Anne also said that because it was rushed, some viewed the project as something shady.
 - Future Projects List – members discussed the Committee's role in future projects and the need to help site projects and issue rfps.

Town Plan:

- Anne has copies of other town's Energy Plans and stills need to distribute them.
- Jen said we need to set priorities. All agreed to the need for deadlines. Anne wondered if a subcommittee needs to be formed? Should we offer to write one stand alone section instead of different sections to go with each category? Suzy offered to find out deadlines and to propose an energy section.

Other Business:

There was general discussion about recruiting a new member to join the Committee. Suggestions included posting on Front Porch Forum, and in the Charlotte News. Suzy volunteered to draft a “help wanted”. Anne suggested looking at the list of folks who showed up at first meeting at the Senior Center.

Library Heating system – Anne suggested looking at SCHIPS for grants. Jen said she believed Winslow was interested in seeing if geothermal would be appropriate. Need to find someone to look into this. Discussed possible engineers. Jen volunteered to contact Winslow to see who to deal with at the Library. We talked about using budget money to research options.

Catherine volunteered to find out what’s in our budget, and why a role of insulation is sitting above the Town Hall doorway.

Members also discussed putting a CLF in food shelf bags here in Charlotte, as we think we still have a little money in the budget to do this. Decided to do this next year. But the Committee will be buying the bulbs soon and will talk to the Charlotte Food Shelf people. Michelle volunteered to follow up on this.

Dean asked Jen to help with outdoor lighting at the Senior Center. She sent back a request for more information.

PACE?

Tried to recall what stage this proposal was at, as Hans had been the lead person on this. We were going to see what other towns were doing. The Clean Energy District would need to be voted on. Decided to take Wait and See attitude and not try to get on the ballot for Town Meeting. Perhaps have folks from Richmond come talk to us. Anne says this could help with public education and perhaps we should have others come as well.

Suzy brought up the Joint Project with Transition Town Green Homes Tour March 17, 2012. Four or five homes will be on display. Talked about various folks to include – Sloanes – and have a variety of systems to show. Anne volunteered to contact the Sloanes.

Suzy also volunteered to write a summary of our activities for the past year.