

Energy Committee Minutes

February 13, 2019

7 – 8:35 PM

Charlotte Town Hall

In attendance: Matt Burke, Rebecca Foster, Suzy Hodgson, Deirdre Holmes, Bill Kallock, John Quinney, and Gerald Bouchard (planning commission liaison)

- 1) The agenda was reviewed.
- 2) Minutes from the 1/16/19 meeting were approved.
- 3) Working group discussions
 - a) **Act 174/Updated Town Plan**
 - i) Approval: Two more selectboard public hearings are required, 2/25/19 is the first. More than half of EC members are planning to be at the meeting in a show of support, along with Emily Nosse-Leirer from CCRPC. The town vote is unscheduled, could happen as early as May and as late as November. We hope to get more information on process at the 2/25/19 meeting.
 - ii) The implementation table at the end of the plan needs some minor corrections; John and Rebecca will get it into a googledoc for all committee members to review. A reminder that changes still could be made to the Plan and the Table.
 - iii) Anticipating a positive outcome, Matt plans to find out from the CCRPC how they can help with the next steps of implementation.
 - b) **Transportation**
 - i) Deirdre and Rebecca have been working on an as-yet unnamed fossil fuel free festival to coincide with the annual library book sale Sunday, July 14. The purpose is to bring positivity to the transition off of gas, and be inclusive in both modes of transport and outreach to all populations and neighboring towns. Bill will investigate possibility of getting a town EV charging station, which could be inaugurated that day.
 - c) **Matching grant** (not a working group, but a major part of the budget that requires attention)
 - i) Our FY '19 budget contains a \$1K matching grant. John's been looking into a NEGEF seed grant because its quick turn-around would be feasible within the available timeframe. John proposed that the grant be used to hire someone to do high level EC planning in an effort to execute the new town plan; the EC will need more resources in order to accomplish all that is being asked of it.
 - ii) To get the matching grant from the town the source of the other \$1K can be anything; SCHIP is another possibility.
 - iii) Suzy observed that NEGEF funds "projects" more than "hires"; a hire is more complicated in general, requiring approval from SB, putting out to bid, etc.
 - iv) While agreeing in principle with the idea of an energy coordinator, Matt concerned that the town plan may change and that a grant based on it may be premature; an application on behalf of such a position would be stronger after the town plan is passed.
 - v) Rebecca suggested separating the idea of the matching fund from the idea of a hire so that each can be considered independently on its merits.

- vi) We resolved to revisit the discussion at the March meeting and decide which grant/s we will apply for. In the interim all members are asked to a) think about the implementation table and what help the EC may want in the execution of its tasks; b) look for other potential sources of \$1K for matching funds.
- d) Affordable Housing Trust Fund**
 - i) The proposal to expand the uses of the Fund to include weatherization originally came from Nancy Wood. A few of us have sought out background information and feel that getting the Fund's mandate changed is beyond the scope of our information and not our responsibility. If the town does change it, however, we can then address the best way to work with the Fund on weatherizing the Charlotte housing stock.
- e) Town infrastructure**
 - i) John has worked with the necessary partners and contacts to put together an RFP for an energy audit of the Fire and Rescue building. We have \$1700 in our FY '19 budget to dedicate to this purpose.
- f) Education**
 - i) A four-part discussion on *Drawdown* is planned at the library March 11, 18, April 1, 8; the EC plans to pay for the purchase of the books. Suzy says Mike Yantachka would be happy to make a presentation during the legislative session or after. ACORN is giving a presentation in Middlebury about battery storage on 2/20/19.
- g) Town LEDs**
 - i) Suzy will loop Bill into her conversation with Dean to get a lighting inventory, the necessary first step.
- 4) Budget review
 - a) Remaining in FY '19 is \$1700 for town building efficiency; \$1000 matching grant; \$800 education; and \$150 conferences and travel.
- 5) Library expansion
 - a) Gerald is concerned that the expansion will not be energy efficient and the library will choose the least cost design/builder necessitating future retrofits and lost energy savings. It's the EC's belief that the library is mindful of this, in part because David and Deirdre have been following the progress precisely for that reason. The library is on the PC's agenda at its next meeting 2/21/19.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Foster