

## Energy Committee Meeting

March 13th, 2013

7:00 – 8:45 PM

Town Hall

Present: Suzy, Rebecca, Gerald, Jen, Catherine, Michelle, Lily, David

The minutes of the January and February meetings were approved with one addition to the January minutes.

Discussion re how much time members are spending on the committee. Michelle and David's terms are up now, and they feel as if they should step down. After some urging by committee members, David is going to stay on with the expectation that he will plan to attend meetings and has limited time to do work outside of meetings. Michelle is considering her decision. Jen warns that we need to be careful of not using the professionals on the committee for free labor for the town.

Could moving the meeting date make it easier for people to attend? Possible meeting change to first Tuesday of each month (except if holiday moved to first Wednesday.) Will not approve unless there is a need for it.

Suzy was told that an ad hoc group is relandscaping around the Town Hall building and asked if there is any work that should be done while they are digging up, such as insulating the foundation. David's suggestion is that if they are going to do this, to use EPS (expanded, not extruded) white foam—not the blue foam, which has much higher global warming impact. Without knowing the detail, this group seemed to think this landscaping job may not be the ideal occasion to undertake a large insulation job requiring a deep trench around the building.

Library and heating systems. Jen and Michelle visited the library and found the furnaces original to the building are 17 years old. The two furnaces correspond to two zones and serve for heating and cooling. They could not determine what the problems have been and what has been repaired—none of that has been well documented—but it's clear that it's a lowest first cost system that's at the end of its useful life. Catherine will try to find out info on system from Beth on library board and Margaret, staff at library.

The group questions if pursuing analysis for a district system is the best use of our funds or if we should start by looking at making the library more efficient. The library is not well constructed or insulated, and it is unclear what level of building upgrade would be necessary and possible to improve the efficiency of the building. A deep energy retrofit of the library would be expensive and would require fundraising on the Library's part. The Town Hall library cost about 1K undertaken by Scott Gardner. Scott reported that the actual cost was \$1,500 though he only billed for the agreed upon amount. Suzy will recommend to the library that they get an audit.

Jen proposed that the energy committee table the study for the district heating scheme; David seconded; and the motion passed.

It would be helpful to have a master plan for the town buildings that would be reflected in the Town Plan.

Gerald announced that there is a vacancy on planning commission.

The energy committee's section of the Town Plan is due March 21, in eight days. Suzy and Gerald will check with Dean on the desired format, but it's Gerald's opinion the draft needs to be cut down so that it's concisely presented. Dean sent an email asking if we had addressed siting in the town plan. The answer is yes, in general terms, but the energy committee is not taking a stand on particular sites.

The committee discussed its role and whether it wanted to take on energy-related advocacy; a look at overall objectives of the committee.

A consolidated meeting twice a year was proposed for energy committee, planning commission, Transition Town Charlotte, recreation committee, and trails committee, so that everyone is coordinating efforts.

Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm