

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Weds, March 14, 2012

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Town Hall

Present: Suzy Hodgson, David Pill, Jennifer Chiodo, Catherine Hughes, Michelle Lussier

- Approve switch grass presentation in lieu of minutes for Feb meeting – Approved with the following change - change Suzy to Ann for sidewalk letter

Action item: Suzy will add Switch grass presentation to web site.

- Adding some flesh to the bones of our outline for energy section of Town Plan update. Everyone review outline on google docs to confirm where you think you can contribute and discuss goals for each subtopic
- Discussion of siting guidelines - our role as committee vs. planning commission's role . The question came up ...do we say something about siting the renewable? Is it the Energy committee's purview? It was discussed and agreed that installations be treated like structures with the same set backs. Question about adding language which would discourage people from blocking other installations.- No decision. Add language about some kind of renewable energy goal for Charlotte. Renewable energy is a high public value and we should pursue the state energy plan goal for renewable energy by 2050. Where in the town's priorities do renewables lie? Who assigns the weight? Impact assessment by town? We need to write a couple of sentences about : a.state energy plan, b. priorities for reducing energy,goals and c. objectives.....The question came up is there a tax structure on commercial renewable? – appraisal etc..What Is PSB definition of commercial?
- ACTION We divided up the Google Doc. outline for further development each of us took a section or two and will elaborate on them. Refer to Google Doc. For assignment. Need broad level. Suzy to remind Ann that she is responsible for doing the

transportation.

- Bees in the ERV - Jennifer to update – Are they bees? Installer should have installed screens. Look into warranty. While at the meeting, we inspected and found no evidence of bees but Catherine is going to follow up with Mary and also to determine who is responsible for maintenance.
- Library - Feasibility of energy sources (eg biomass, groundsource heat pumps), discuss and agree actions (eg scope) for identifying funding sources and/or allocating some of our budget for consultant-ACTION Michelle generously offered to put together an RFP for a feasibility study.
- Controls in Town Hall - discuss and agree actions for improving controls and presenting budget to SB (NB: discretionary funds are available from Town) Doing controls without active occupant participation may be a waste of money. How does the energy committee promote energy efficient behavior in Town Hall and other buildings. We need to have conversations with building occupants. Town should have a detailed account of energy use with a spreadsheet or some other means.
- Green Homes Open House - poster announcement - everyone to fwd to neighbors and friends
- Building Energy Resilience blog - consider subscription

Other business:

Catherine told us about propaganda ads about the danger of smart meters. Do we as the EC want to take a proactive stance.

Action: Catherine to get more info.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Pill