

MINUTES
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
February 11, 2021
Held via Zoom

Meeting called to order: 7:15 pm

Attending: Andrea Chasen, Dave Marinelli, David Miller, David Morse, Steve Marantz, Minoos Tehrani, and Kevin Shea, Liz Bone
Guests: Lyn Simmons. Owen Wallace, Samuel Wine, Noah Van Handel, Scott Mackey, Aimee Giroux

1 Opening of Meeting: Andrea read the open meeting law pursuant to Gov. Baker's guidelines during the pandemic emergency declaration.

2. Discussion of Minutes of January 21, 2021: Motion to by Minoos, seconded by Dave Miller: Upon roll call: all in favor.

3. Presentation of Solar Array report:

Summary: Lyn applied for a META grant to do a study for a solar array and she presented the findings of the report:

The consultant looked at the possible use of the old DPW site for development of a solar array to benefit Longmeadow, both the municipalities and the residents. Its conclusions are:

A solar project there would consist of a 1000KW array as well as solar storage:

- DPW site needs to be cleaned up.
- \$2.16 mil put out to bid, installer will get tax credits (the possible overall cost)
- -50% community support.50% installer private support.

Questions and comments:

- ✓ Was \$100k put aside for DPW cleanup folded into construction contract? Yes, maybe more.
- ✓ Can it be more than 50% community support? It's the goal, not the max.
- ✓ Is it community buying power, not buying into ownership? It's 50% buying the solar power from the town.
- ✓ Can people with solar sell it themselves and not through company? Not connected in the same way.
- ✓ Average house uses 500 kw per month, If you use less or more, what are the options? Selling it back? Buying more?
- ✓ This proposal says we have a developer buy it and we buy discounted rates from that developer. Or do we as a town buy the panels and get all the incentives? Is it a lease? Do we clear and prepare the land?
- ✓ What if someone moves?

- ✓ Soil testing? Weston and Sampson will do some testing.
- ✓ Will the old Park and Rec building remain? Yes
- ✓ Like street light project, is it worthwhile to buy it outright instead of lease? How much does electricity cost for our town?
- ✓ Town buildings use a lot of electricity, so it would probably be worthwhile to buy it outright.
- ✓ Scott asked how would we fund it?. Bond it.
- ✓ What about the landfill that we just capped? It was looked at and it wasn't feasible because its cost prohibitive because there's no electricity.

Dave Miller will check how the LHS admin building is doing with electricity since its being used consistently during covid times.

The Committee felt that there were still some outstanding questions that needed to be addressed before we can provide any recommendations to the Select Board and town.

4. Habitat for Humanity for Greater Springfield- Aimee Giroux

Dave Marinelli had suggested that this committee look at the possibility of supporting a committee goal of showcasing new and more sustainable energy practices in residential buildings through a possible partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Springfield. Aimee Giroux, its executive director presented an overview of the work of the organization and how Longmeadow might meet its requirement's for affordable housing and showcase the new net-zero stretch code by building a "green house" Dave Marinelli also provided information about financial support from the Longmeadow Community Preservation Committee

Aimee provided the following information about how a family is selected, the organization's requirements and support.

- ✓ Families generally have \$35-54k per year income range.
 - Families not pay more than 40%
 - Not pay more than half their income for house.
 - Financial literacy, asset management, homeowner education required for homeowners.
- ✓ -0% interest mortgage, bought through HFH-
- ✓ Stretch code implementation generally helps a family save, at a minimum, about \$2500/yr.

Questions and Comments:

- ✓ ?- What percentage of homeowners stay in home after 10 years? About 50/65.
- ✓ What percentage cost of the materials and total value do they pay? About \$150k, for 1400 sq ft.
- ✓ Market rate is the goal for homeowner's payment.
- ✓ Goal for Mass affordability rate? Longmeadow is a 4 or 5.
- ✓ What can CPC funds pay for? Probably not the whole amount.
- ✓ State looking at net zero stretch code, so if we could build a "green house" and showcase it, would be good for advertising and promoting both entities, good for

promoting inclusion for our community, passive housing, educational opportunities. Great for kids to grow up in a safe town, etc.

- Committee will continue with pursuing HFH with Dave Marinelli leading.

5. Earth Day- April 11. (May 2 rain date)

- Clean up, Mario M creating a list with areas to clean up. Andrea will send PR to Liz for website and social media. This is a great town wide event and will help promote the understanding of how our littering behavior negatively impacts our green space and watershed.

Dave Marinelli will be using the day to help Longmeadow get rid of invasive species as he has recruited people to work on this during Earth Day.

6. Minoo introduced her students:

- Noah- Doing a study on energy consumption in Norway. Noah is interning with Andrea on helping with EV charging station and looking at other communities and how they are creating green communities and preserving green space.
- Sam- Helping Minoo with a project.
- Owen- Helping Minoo with a project using finance.
- Having webinars on sustainability on campus at Roger Williams and will open up to public to join.
- Scott Mackey- (works with Minoo), academic supervisor- Here to help.

7. Open Space Plan-

Longmeadow has developed and adopted an Open Space and Recreational Park plan: Now one of the questions is how to get businesses to conserve greenery to mitigate water run off or handle actions that negatively impact the environmental actions?

- Currently, there is no cohesive communication between boards and committees approaching these issues.
- No collaboration between town entities.
- Coming up on town warrant- What to do with Christian Scientist Church land which sold years ago to Colvest and is under consideration to change zoning.

8. Scheduling next meeting:

Andrea will follow up with "survey" for best dates.

Motion to adjourn by Minoo and seconded by Andrea. All in favor. 8:53pm

Respectfully, Liz Bone