

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY MINUTES  
March 10, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

Attending: Present: Andrea Chasen, Mino Tehrani, David Miller, Liz Bone, David Morse, Mike Massie.  
Marie Georefils has resigned from the committee due to her current work constraints.

Guests: Corrin Meise-Munns, Bryanna Bay, Kirsten Zamirowski, Samantha Kelly, Nick Harper, Novi Rivera, Frank Smith, Dano Weisbord

1. Opening of Meeting: Andrea read the rules allowing for public meetings to continue to be held by zoom, pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021.

2. Discussion of minutes from January 24, 2022. Clarification of the discussion and review of minutes. Minutes tabled to the next meeting.

*Corrections- The meta grant is for \$15,000 for Center School to check all energy expenditures and where savings can be met. We need a detailed facility audit. The Planning board supported the Town in applying for the MVP grant. PVPC is doing a greenhouse gas emission study and not an energy use study.*

3. Introductions of Guests: Dano Weisbord is a professor of Sustainability and has been working on a Climate Action Plan for Smith College that will remove 90% of carbon emissions from Smith's 114 buildings. He came to talk about geothermal heat pumps. Smith is doing a new project where they are removing all steam and gas heat from the campus and installing geothermal heat pumps. The types of heat pumps he is speaking about are using wells or trenches to utilize 50 degree temperatures in the earth's surface. In Vancouver Canada they are attempting to use the heat of sewers to use for geothermal pumps. With regard to the Eversource Project that is being conducted in the eastern part of the state, Dano believes it is using the gas company's right of way to install water pipes and run them to resident's house: if successful, this is a way for Eversource to get away from oil and gas.

Questions about the presentation:

*Mino asked: Aren't there greenhouse gases and radon in the earth that get released when digging the wells, counterproductive and bad for the earth? Dano answered that this may occur in deep drill wells, the ones Dano is speaking about are the size of water wells.*

*David Morse asked: How could Longmeadow utilize a heat pump system—would Longmeadow need to lay pipe to every house in town? Dano thought that the utility company might use the current right of ways to install pipes.*

HEET- A good resource for geothermal heat pump systems for municipalities.

4. Upcoming Workshops: Liz sent out invitations, by email, to the full list of food vendors. Not many responses so Andrea will ask Lyn, Finn, and Kevin to help spread the word. The workshop will be held at Storrs library on April 11th, 6pm-8pm.

5. Green Communities- No Updates

6. The Longmeadow 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Earth Day clean up: This is scheduled for April 10 and Andrea and the event's steering committee has begun the work for the activity. It is hoped that every member of the Energy and Sustainability committee will participate in the cleanup. Andrea asked Kirstin to recruit some Longmeadow students to help.

7. New business:

Corrin provided the information that Longmeadow will have to adopt climate change codes within our bylaws. The first group of codes will involve stormwater, MS4 permit. Longmeadow has hired PVPC to create the new bylaws for stormwater, and will need to be approved by SB and presented for approval at a later Town Meeting. The next bylaws and codes to update will need to be about creating a sustainable town. We will need community support and need our committee to do outreach. Corrin will send samples of bylaw revisions to the committee.

8. Other matters and comments: Minoo is against paying a consultant because our committee should be doing the work.

Mike proposed that the committee pick one issue to focus on and tackle.

Andrea: Tasked Minoo to write an action plan for our committee and Kirstin would like to be involved.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted:  
Liz Bone