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Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes 8/24/20

Members present: Greg Ames, Bob Babcock, Marshall Cox, Elena Cahill, Bill Horne, Sharon Huttner, Shirley McCarthy, John Prins, Dan Rabin

1. Approve 8/10/20 minutes: BBabcock moved, JPrins 2nd
2. Public outreach campaign : MCohen- HeatSmart proposal/RFP/MOU to be submitted to People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE). Meeting tomorrow of volunteer committee for public outreach: website, press release, Facebook advertisements. Once MOU signed, ready to go → make contact with town organizations, slideshows, etc.

DRabin: HeatSmart program sponsored by PACE wants to educate public about the utility of air heat pumps and importance of improving energy efficiency. Home Energy Solutions (HES), followed up with air heat pumps and solar will save individuals money and improve public health. This is an informational campaign by the HeatSmart group: information and guidance only. No town cost at all. Recently announced proposed, energy plan, which is a living document, can now go out for public input via a number of ways, eg, GAMES and DRabin are crafting a press release.

DMcCarthy-Bercury is working on a website where citizens can read the draft energy plan and provide feedback. Town will develop a page (on town website) where the public can learn about sustainability and programs around the town. It will have a link to the energy plan; we want questions and input. Hopefully, it will be up by Oct. 1st. Her office is open for phone calls, etc.

DRabin mentioned that he and MCohen are aware of the importance of measuring outcomes hence are setting up a tracking spreadsheet and asking any contractors to feed back data regularly and make data available to the public through this website. They want to maximize transparency, and document improvements in energy efficiency in town. Talks/meeting with organizations are being set up.

Further discussion ensued including that it is impressive that so many resources/rebates are available through these programs at no cost and ECahill noted that HES is a service we pay for through our utility bills and this outreach is making our community aware of a service they already have, improving home economics as MCox stated. HES work includes gas leak detection, a public health issue.

3. New Business: JPrins said that this committee information can be brought into the schools. There are already curricula for clean energy in the schools; this could add to these – presentations, etc. SHuttner: There is also a connection with scouting (Girl Scouts etc.) where we can share this info. DMcCarthy-Bercury: for education piece, we can connect with EE Smart to earn credits/badge and the Earth Institute to produce energy evaluation for the town, tracking energy, emissions, energy consumption and related data. We can use this research project to create potential new opportunities. Applications are due Nov or Dec.
4. Public comment and questions: Residents spoke about the ability to read/comment on the plan, its origin in the POCD and PACE, the clean energy mission of the committee. Members re-stated that it is a draft and living document.
5. Motion to adjourn: GAMES, 2nd DRabin.