

Green Community Committee

Meeting Minutes for October 11, 2011 – Approved on November 15, 2011

Location: Ayer Town Hall, Great Hall

Members Present: Carolyn McCreary (CM), Jeremy Callahan (JC), Faith Salter (FS), Allan Wilson (AW)

Not Present: Ted Staples, Robert Pontbriand, David Maher

APAC taped: NO

7:15 PM – Open Meeting

- **Introductions**

- CM introduced the members of the committee.
- FS moved to appoint CM as Chair; AW second.
 - Motion approved unanimously
- CM moved to appoint JC as Clerk; FS second.
 - Motion approved unanimously

- **Committee Charge**

- CM reviewed the Green Community (GC) Committee Charge.
- Members discussed and agreed that the solid waste compactor should be located at the Ayer Town Hall.
- Members discussed and agreed that the four GC signs shall be located at town gateways as follow: Rt. 2A @ Shirley, Rt. 2A @ Littleton, Rt. 111 @ Harvard and Rt. 111 @ Groton

- **Energy Saving Measures Completed**

- Members discussed efficiency measures implemented prior to the GC designation application, relative to interior lighting retrofits at the Fire and Police Stations, the Town Hall and the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).
- The Town's short-term energy reduction strategy is to reduce energy use by 20% within five years; 2009 will serve as the baseline for comparison with reductions targeted for 2014.

- **Past Proposed GC Projects**

- CM updated the status of various projects proposed during the application process.
- The heating system upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant has been completed. Funding was provided by a \$150,000 grant from the DOER as part of the Federal Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- Automation of HVAC and lighting sensors for Town Hall is in progress. Funding for this project is Green Communities grant.
- Replacement of the generator at Town Hall is in progress. Funding for this project is by CPAC subject to approval at Special Town Meeting Fall 2011.

- Fuel efficiency vehicle purchase policy is complete. Moving forward the Town will now only purchase fuel efficient vehicles in accordance with the Green Communities Designation (except for exempt vehicles).
- The replacement of WWTP Power Transformers and WWTP Main Pumping Station Burner is on hold, as the project is more complex and less cost effective than anticipated.
- Water and sewer pumping station improvements are under way. Funding is by the Green Communities grant.

- **Initial GC Grant Projects**
 - Six projects have been approved in the initial GC grant totaling \$151,175.
 - Pumping Station Gas Conversion
 - Fire Station Light Savings Initiative (outdoor)
 - Convert Fan Coil Thermostats to DDC and Implement Setbacks (Town Hall HVAC Controls)
 - Street Lamp Lighting Savings Initiative (replace bulbs in 55 fixtures)
 - Ayer Police Station Light Savings Initiative (outdoor)
 - Smart Strip Outlets at all Municipal Buildings

- **Town Solar Energy Update**
 - CM updated Members on the status of solar projects to date; progress has been delayed due to a variety of issues; the latest proposal would focus on developing solar energy at three sites: two at the WWTP and one at the Transfer Station; the Energy Committee is currently charged with pursuing this project.

- **Future Projects**
 - There will be two competitive GC grant application cycles per year; Members discussed four possibilities for future grant applications:
 - Encourage residential home energy improvements, focusing on the large number of renters in Town who are responsible for their own energy costs, but who cannot benefit from other programs designed for home owners.
 - Encourage and assist with private sector solar energy projects, perhaps in partnership with the Town.
 - Further improve water conservation efforts (i.e., rain sensors to measure rainfall and stop automatic lawn sprinklers when unnecessary).
 - Install recycling bins at various public locations where only trash bins are currently provided.
 - FS expressed an interest in implementing an Energy Awareness Program for the Town, possibly as soon as spring 2012.

- **Meeting Schedule**

- The GC Committee will meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday; Alternate will be the 4th Tuesday or otherwise as needed

- **Adjourn Meeting – 9:30 PM (no vote)**