

Minutes: Boxborough Energy Committee Meeting: July 13, 2016

Morse/Hilberg Room, Boxborough Town Hall

Present: Francie Nolde, Keshava Srivastava, Larry Grossman, Raid Suleiman, Abby Reip, , Bob Stemple (BoS Liaison)

Absent: Richard Garrison, Santiago Tapia-Perez,

7:08pm Meeting commenced

1. The committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes from June 8, 2016 as written.
2. Outreach: The committee discussed the benefits of having a booth at Fifer's Day. Francie will ask LELD if they feel that their presence was helpful. The committee decided not to have a booth at the Harvest Fair in September.
3. PAYT: Francie, Keshava, Larry, and Abby visited the Acton Transfer Station in June to learn how their operation is serving the people of Acton. Corey York, who showed us around, told us that PAYT is very successful--compliance is good and they are keeping recycling out of the trash. Estimated savings so far \$40K (unsure if this is the first year figure).

The committee discussed PAYT for Boxborough. Is Boxborough too small for PAYT to be effective? Are we already maximizing recycling among our residents? We determined that we need more data before we can recommend PAYT. Of particular issue is the number of residents who do not use the transfer station and are, instead, using a private contractor (or living in apartments served by private contractors). Another issue is the increasing number of seniors in Boxborough who currently do not pay for transfer station stickers and will, in all likelihood, not want to pay for bags under a PAYT system. Data on hauling and tipping costs and trips, number of stickers sold, number of stickers issued for free to seniors needs to be gathered.

The committee agreed that the goal isn't just to reduce solid waste, increase recycling, and save the Town money, but to also try and come up with a fair approach. We do not have data on whether or not Acton residents (as individuals or households) are saving money or spending more money on disposal.

Of particular interest to the Committee (in terms of increasing recycling among the transfer station users) is the installation of a swap shed. The Committee agreed to go to Town Meeting with a warrant article to finance the building and will study similar towns to see how they manage the shed.

- Abby will check with Littleton to see if they have a swap shed at their transfer station.
- Francie will talk to Tom Garmon regarding a site at the transfer station for the shed.
- The Committee will schedule observation visits at the transfer station to try and gauge the number of vehicles that come in and how many dispose trash, recycling, or additional items.

4. a. MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) is facilitating a regional contract for 5 towns (Boxborough, Saugus, Malden, Bolton, Southborough) with an ESCo (Energy Savings Company) to embark on energy saving projects for each town. MAPC will find an ESCo who will do a "deep" energy audit for each of Boxborough's municipal buildings. The audit is not free unless the Town chooses a project that MAPC approves. Possible projects discussed were LED lighting for the library, the solar carport at 1300 Mass Ave, a solar farm on the Hager land (behind the library), ground-mounted solar panels at the transfer station.

MAPC will send out an RFQ (request for quotes) to select the ESCo. Francie recommended that Gerry Noel, Boxborough's Building Inspector and Simon Bunyard (Boxborough resident) be on the selection committee. The RFQ is due out at the end of July 2016.

b. Peregrine energy reporting was discussed. Keshava will be handling the data management of the metering and will correct any errors as they relate to the fire house (The fire house has 2 meters-- one of which carries the well costs that are \$1K per year to operate the "Deck House" on the Hager land.)

5. Master Plan discussion: Town Planner has requested progress from EnCom with regard to our Master Plan goals. Aspiration #5 needs revision. Francie noted that 3 out of 6 of our goals are to influence LELD, and that is not feasible. The ESCo opportunity will be used to "answer" our Master Plan initiative.

The committee briefly discussed the new public safety building for the Town. No action items were issued on this subject.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.