

Boxborough Energy Committee June 2014 Minutes

Date/Location: Wednesday, June 11, 2014, Town Hall

Attending: Members: Francie Nolde, Margo Webber, Santiago Tapia-Perez, Richard Garrison

BOS Representative: Raid Suleiman

Guests: None

Members Absent: Larry Grossman, Kesahva Srivastava, Abby Reip, Kevin Goddard, LELD

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 9, 2014, Town Hall.

Minutes

General business

- May 2014 minutes were approved. Next meeting will be July 9, 2014. Vince Amoroso will be the new BOS Representative.
- Raid talked about the proposed Public Safety Building. Money was appropriated at Town Meeting to conduct a study on the need for a new Public Safety building. After July 1, the Town will go out to bid to hire a firm to conduct a study. The study should be completed in time for the May Town Meeting in 2015. The existing Fire building is old and the garage bays are not large enough to house the design of the new Fire Trucks. When Boxborough needs to purchase a new Fire Truck, it must have the ability to house it. The existing Fire Station is old and does not meet the current building code. If the building is expanded, it will need to be updated to meet code. The building cannot be expanded back because of the wetlands, so it would have to expand sideways toward the police building. The study will look at the feasibility of merging the two stations. The study will also evaluate purchasing new land and building a facility at a different location. Until the Feasibility Study is complete, the Energy Committee will not pursue energy efficiency upgrades at either the Fire or Police facility.
- The Town budget for the energy committee was increased from \$200 to \$800. Richard talked to Vicki and Tom about purchasing recycling bins for the playing fields. Vicki has applied to the State for a grant to obtain two recycling bins for the playing fields. Richard had pictures of what the recycling bins look like. There are four playing fields in Town and the EnCom decided it would use its money to purchase two more recycling bins so all 4 fields would have recycling containers. The recycling containers will be chained down and located near trash bins. Words on top of the bins will say "bottles and cans". The Energy Committee would also purchase reusable liners to go inside the bins if there is enough money.
- Francie indicated that Rebecca Morris is interested in joining the Energy Committee when there is an opening.
- Francie will reach out to Kerin Crockett to let her know that if she needs anything from the energy committee or would like to meet with us about a power down program she can contact us.
- MAPC is still working on the energy plan. Ani has been trying to talk to Kevin Goddard about having LELD do electric audits of all Town buildings.

- Francie has connected with the Littleton Sustainability Group in Littleton. This is an ad hoc group that is working on clean energy issues in Littleton. They have meetings the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- The energy committee talked about implementing a power down program at the Town Hall. This was tabled until the July meeting.
- We had a farewell Cake for Raid. Thank you Raid for all your help and guidance over the years! The Energy Committee will miss you!

Main Discussion

Solarize Boxborough Survey – A survey was handed out at Town Meeting. A flyer with the survey information will be stuffed into the tax bill and mailed to every resident the end of June. Twenty three people responded to the Town Meeting survey. Santiago entered the data into the survey monkey database and had a graph summarizing the results. Fourteen people were extremely interested and 8 were very interested in the program and six gave their email contact. One person noted that the local government should not spend its money on a program that would benefit individual residents. This last comment was a concern since the Local Government would not be funding this.

The Energy Committee talked about reviewing the surveys that come in during the summer and then holding an informational meeting in the Fall. The EnCom would use the Blanchard Bits and backpack Project to advertise the meeting. At this meeting, representatives from LELD and a Solar Company would be present to explain the program and answer questions. The Committee talked out including Littleton in the “Solarize” program in hopes of having more people join and getting better rates. Margo agreed to ask Jim Elkind of New England Clean Energy if Solarize programs were allowed to include more than one Town. Francie agreed to talk to the Littleton Sustainable Group to see if they would be interested in joining Boxborough in a Solarize Program.

Action Items

- Margo will ask Jim Elkind if multiple towns can get together to do a “Solarize” program.
- Francie will reach out to the Littleton Sustainability group to see if they are interested in doing a Solarize program.
- Richard will follow up with Vicki. If the Town gets two recycling bins through the grant, Richard will order two more Recycling bins for the playing fields. If the Town does not get two bins, Richard will contact Selina to see if there is money to purchase two and the Energy Committee would purchase two.