

Boxborough Energy Committee February 2016 Minutes

Date/Location: Wednesday, February 10, 2016, Town Hall, 7:00-8:30 PM

Attending: Members: Francie Nolde, Margo Webber, Keshava Srivastava, Abby Reip, Richard Garrison, Larry Grossman

BOS Representative: None

Guests: None

Members Absent: Les Fox, BoS Representative, Santiago Tapia-Perez

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 10, 2016

Minutes

- Gerry Noel, the new Boxborough building inspector will be coming to the March meeting.
- Francie updated the committee on happenings the past month. Francie met with Solect Energy, Maureen Strapko, Jennifer Campell, and Gerry Noel to discuss installing a solar PV system on the library roof. SolectEnergy could put a system on the lower rubber roof. The system would cost about \$60-65,000 and would produce about 15% of the electrical kW required for the library.
- Francie discussed installing a system with New England Clean Energy. They would only price out an 8 KW system based on the cap LELD placed on LittleBoxSolar.
- The library roof is already 12 years old and half way through its twenty+ year life.
- Francie has talked to Ani Krishnan from MAPC. He is exploring creating a regional ESCO for the set of 13 towns that Boxborough is a part of. Ani asked the ESCO Rep if a town such as ours, with a relatively small amount of electric usage, would be eligible to participate and the response was, "Yes!" The ESCO supplies the solar panels and installs them. Boxborough pays them back with the electric savings. Acton's solar farm at their dump uses this approach with 100% of their municipal building electricity usage supplied through their ESCO.
- On February 11, 2016, Francie, Selina, and Gerry Noel will meet with Scott Edwards from Littleton Electric Light Company (LELD) to discuss how the Town of Boxborough and LELD can work together and what LELD could offer if the Town installed a Solar system on a municipal building roof.
- Francie discussed the 2030 master plan. If the committee wants any changes, they must go before the Boxborough planning board and Board of Selectmen to make the changes to the 2030 plan.
- Francie got numbers from the DPW on the amount of money the Town saved in hauling feeds by installing the two recycling compactors. In year one, the Town saved \$23,000 in hauling feeds, in year 2 the Town saved \$20,700 in hauling fees and in year three the Town saved \$20,295 in hauling fees for a total of \$64,484 dollars in savings. This does not include the additional electricity used to operate the compactor. One compactor was bought and the second is rented at \$120/month.

- The committee discussed reconsidering implementing a PAYT program. Acton just began this program and Francie was going to talk to Jim Snyder about how the program is working and if the Town has positive or negative feedback from the implementation. Francie will get back to the committee. The problem with pursuing PAYT in Boxborough is that the seniors currently do not pay for dump stickers and the PAYT program would be a new fee for them.

Next the Energy Committee brainstormed future next steps for projects the committee wants to undertake. These included:

1. PAYT
2. Swap Shed at the transfer station
3. Compost pile at the transfer station
4. Installing LED lights in Municipal Buildings
5. Installing LED lights on the street lights and in parking lots
6. Find out if town buildings recycle.
7. Solar panels on town-owned buildings or a solar farm.
8. When we put together a solar plan, ask LELD for grants.
9. Greening Boxborough: fund raiser

Action Items:

- Francie will meet with LELD and get back to committee.
- Francie will talk to Jim Snyder-Grant about PAYT in Acton.
- Francie will find out number of free dump stickers issued to senior citizens.
- Find out number of streetlights in Town.
- Margo will look into streetlight grant program.
- Evaluate making reusable bags with Boxborough logo to sell at Fifers Day.
- Richard will do audit on recycling at Town Buildings
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