

## **Boxborough Energy Committee March 2014 Minutes**

**Date/Location:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014, Town Hall

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

**BOS Representative:** Absent

**Guests:** None

**Members Absent:** Larry Grossman, Kesahva Srivastava and Raid Suleiman, BOS Rep

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 9, 2014, Town Hall.

### **Minutes**

#### **General business**

- February minutes were approved. Next meeting will be April 9, 2014.
- David Lindberg put a warrant article in for Town Meeting asking for \$15,000 for insulating the Town Hall. Francie will check with David to see if this is just for the walls or for the walls and attic.
- Abby has drafted an article for the Beacon about the money Boxborough has saved by installing compactors for the recycling. Abby will send this article to the Beacon for publication and will send a pdf draft to Liz Markiewicz to put on the Energy Website.
- Francie had talked to Kevin Goddard of LELD about coming to the monthly Energy Committee meetings. Kevin indicated to Francie that he was willing to come. The Energy committee reviewed a revision to the Charter to read that the Committee would be comprised of seven members, six from the Town of Boxborough and one member from LELD. Francie will pass this on to Selina. Having a member from LELD will help the committee to come up with ideas and determine what is feasible to do. This would keep the committee at 7 members and if a vote was taken, the quorum would be 4. A discussion on whether an LELD, non community member could vote was discussed. It was decided the LELD representative could not be a voting member if they did not live in Town.
- Larry was not present to give an update on the blinds for the Grange Windows.
- 'Power Down' Program at Blanchard School - As of July 1, 2014, the Blanchard School will be handled by the AB Regional School District and will not be part of the Town of Boxborough. The electricity will still come from LELD. Once the ABRSD takes over, Kate Crosby can get involved in energy retrofits and upgrades and implementing the Power Down Program. The Energy Committee will reach out to Kate Crosby and Kerin Crockett and see if they could meet with the Energy Committee during the July or August meeting to work out a strategy on how to proceed. Kate Crosby is very busy and the energy committee would like to help her with the implementation.
- Francie will check with MAPC to see if they can get National Grid to do an energy audit of the school. NGRID did audits of all the other municipal buildings in Town.

- Erin Brandt of MAPC is getting married and Ani Krishnan will be the new lead on creation of the Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) for the Town of Boxborough.
- Solarize Boxborough – The Energy Committee is interested in the Solarize program, but does not have a dedicated leader with time to oversee it. Before proceeding with a Solarize program, the Encom needs to determine if there are enough residents in Town that would like to participate. A survey of residential interest needs to be done. The committee will create a flyer to be distributed at Town Meeting. The flyer will talk about a survey being done electronically on the Town Website. The Committee will also come up with a small 1/3 page stuffer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Tax bill that will ask residents to fill out a survey on their interest in a Solarize program. The Tax bill will be stuffed June 23<sup>rd</sup> and go out in the June 30<sup>th</sup> mailing. The committee will also pursue creating a “Survey Monkey” on line for residents to fill out. If enough residents express interest, the Committee will look for someone to oversee the project. If there is not enough interest, the Committee will not pursue the program.

### **Main Discussion**

There were two main discussions. The first was the review of National Grid audits of the Fire Dept., Police Dept, Town Hall, DPW, Museum and Library to determine if there were any projects the Energy committee wanted to put as a warrant article for Town Meeting. The second was a list of possible projects LELD could contribute to Boxborough if LELD received grant money from DOER.

MAPC had National Grid do energy audits of six municipal buildings in Town; the Town Hall, Library, Fire, Police, DPW and museum. The school was not audited. Each audit looked at the facility, the current energy use, the heating, hot water, and utilities and suggested energy conservation measures. Since the Fire and Police may be upgraded in the next few years, the EnCom did not look at the recommendations. The Town Hall recommendations were for insulation of the attic and replacing the four furnaces. The payback for the four furnaces to be replaced was 81 years, longer than the furnaces would last. The EnCom decided this was not worth pursuing. A warrant article for insulating the Town Hall has already been submitted by David Lindberg. Francie was going to check to see if this includes the attic insulation.

The DPW building/garage is very energy inefficient. This is a maintenance garage typically used 7-3 on Mondays to Fridays except during storms in the winter. The building is heated by natural gas. The building has a metal roof with 3 inches of insulation. The office area has a suspended ceiling and areas of wall penetration where heat loss can happen. Three space heaters with no temperature set back control are used to heat the garage bays. The offices are heated with electric baseboards. The report recommended a blower test be done to determine areas of air infiltration. The report also recommended the use of low intensity infrared heaters instead of the current heaters. The EnCom liked these recommendations. Francie was going to talk to the DPW and see if they are interested. If DPW is interested, the EnCom will put a warrant article in for a Town meeting vote.

The second discussion was regarding LELD applying for a grant. DOER has come up with grant money to be given to private municipal electric companies. The MUNI must apply for the grant

by April 30, 2014. Amounts between \$100,000 and 250,000 will be awarded to a MUNI that has ways to spend the money on energy efficiency and retrofits. Fifty percent of the money must go to municipal building energy efficient retrofits and 50% must go to residential and commercial energy efficient retrofits. LELD will be applying for the grant money for both Littleton and Boxborough. LELD has asked the Boxborough Energy Committee for a list of projects they would like if grant money is received. The EnCom put together a long wish list to send to LELD.

The possible projects include (In no particular order):

#### Residential

1. Discounted LED light bulbs
2. Discounted programmable thermostats
3. LED street lights
4. Free residential audits for both heat and electric consumption, using infrared camera and blower door test
5. Subsidize insulation
6. Assess apartment and condo buildings for energy efficiency (audit for heat and electric). Work with owners to implement changes, with discounts/rebates.
7. Assess Senior Housing for energy efficiency (audit for heat and electric). Implement changes, with discounts/rebates.
8. Rebates for Energy Star appliances
9. Retrofit electric panels, if need for efficiency
10. Subsidize solar panels for homes that can profit from them. This would help a "Solarize Boxborough" project if the Town decides to pursue.
11. Replace water heaters with on-demand water heaters. Subsidize or discount.
12. Replace oil hot water heaters with electric hot water heaters that are cheaper to run (if that's correct data)

#### Commercial property

1. Subsidize/discount solar panels
2. Free audits for heat and electric, using infrared camera and blow door test
3. Replace hot water heater with on-demand to water heater with discounts/subsidies, if appropriate
4. Replace lighting with LED fixtures for free or with discounts/subsidies
5. Add insulation with rebate
6. Free timers and programmable thermostats for electric heat efficiency

#### Blanchard School

1. Free audit for heat and electric, with infrared camera and blower door test.

### **Action Items**

- Abby will send the article she wrote about recycling compactors to the Beacon and to the Town Website.
- Larry will finalize the cost estimates for the insulated blind order for the Town Hall windows and meet with Selina.
- Francie will ask Ani Krishnan of MAPC about getting a National Grid audit of the School.
- Francie will get back to Selina about revising the Charter to include an LELD member.
- Francie or Richard will contact Kate Crosby and Kerin Crockett about coming to a July or August Energy Meeting to work up an action plan for implementing “Power Down” at the Blanchard School when school begins in September.
- Francie will check with David Lindberg to determine if the \$15,000 Town Meeting Warrant article for insulating the Town Hall is for insulating only the walls or the walls and the attic.
- Francie will ask the DPW if they are willing to have an air blower test and use Infrared Heaters. If they are, the Energy Committee will put a new warrant article in for Town Meeting to fund one or both.
- The committee will begin creating a flyer and formulating questions for a survey monkey to determine if residents are interested in the Solarize program.