

Boxborough Energy Committee October 2015 Minutes

Date/Location: Wednesday, October 14, 2015, Town Hall

Attending: Members: Francie Nolde, Abby Reip, Margo Webber, Richard Garrison, Rebecca Morrison

BOS Representative: None

Guests: None

Members Absent: Les Fox, BoS Representative, Larry Grossman, Keshava Srivastava, Santiago Tapia-Perez

Next Meeting: Thursday November 12, 2015, Town Hall.

Minutes

- No minutes were drafted for the September meeting since on the date of the September Energy Committee meeting Jim Elkind of New England Clean Energy was giving a presentation on “Why Solar, Why Now?”
- Francie discussed her comments to the Town of Boxborough’s draft 2030 Master Plan. Francie told the group what comments she submitted on the plan and asked for feedback and if the group had any additional comments. All comments were due to Adam by October 20, 2015.
- One comment was to add language asking for the Town to try to achieve the energy efficiency goals Green Communities must achieve, even though Boxborough is not a Green Community. These include adopting the Stretch code and achieving a 20% reduction in energy use at all municipal buildings within a five year period.
- Margo agreed to print out, from the MEI database, all the electric use data for the Boxborough municipal buildings over the last five years. This data will be provided to the committee members prior to the next meeting. Margo informed the group that Becky Busby has been tabulating the data monthly in a spreadsheet and sending it to Margo who sends it to Peregrine to upload in the MEI database. Thank you Becky!
- Rebecca suggested adding a comment to the 2030 plan under aspirations to state the Town will look for reduction in energy use from houses and businesses in Town through energy efficiency upgrades, retrofits and improvements. No strategies or action requirements will go with this suggestion.
- The group agreed that the Town needed to adopt more stringent standards and building codes for new construction in Town to promote energy efficiency. This could be done through State rebates, education to residents and adopting the stretch code. Some of this would fall under the building inspector.
- Francie also suggested language recommending the Town negotiate with LELD for more net metering and to allow for community shared solar systems. LELD is considering building a “Solar Farm” in Littleton and offering Littleton residents a chance to pay in to the Farm and get the rebate on their electric rate. Maybe Boxborough could have a similar system.
- The Town should negotiate with LELD for an outreach program to residents to educate residents on energy efficiency and provide audits and rebates.

- The Town should evaluate their vehicles and determine if any can be retrofitted with a more fuel efficient vehicle.
- The Town should look for ways to offer financial incentives to residents and new developers to encourage construction using energy efficient techniques.

Boxborough Solar Initiative Update:

As of 10/9/15; the Initiative had reached Tier 4.

176 Site assessments had been scheduled, and 96 were completed. Of the 96 completed, 77 quotes were given, 23 residents said yes and 54 quotes were pending. Of these 54 quotes, 22 were from Boxborough and 32 were from Littleton.

- Richard has been calling the 22 residents with pending quotes informing them of an Open House this weekend and reminding them the date to decide is October 30.
- Many people have found the quotes high and the payback too long. This is because Littleton has a low electric rate.
- New England Clean Energy wants the committee members to call the residents who are 'on the fence' to offer a more personal feel. New England Clean Energy is calling people with verbal commitments.
- A new list of residents to call will come at the end of the week. Abby agreed to call people on the list she knows.

Action items:

- Margo will bring a tabulation of the last five years of electric data for all municipal buildings to the next Energy Committee meeting.
- Francie will submit comments to the Town Planning committee on the 2030 Master Plan.