

Eliot Energy Committee

July 13th, 4:30 PM

Small Meeting Room



MINUTES

Ed Henningsen, Laurel McEwen, Christine Bennett, Nick Lillis (Sara Castellez absent with notice). Also Dana Lee, and Jack Murphy and Jim Tessier (members of the public)

1. Call to Order – Town Manager: The Town Manager called the meeting to order announcing that he was doing so because there was no Chairperson. He declared a quorum
2. Review / Approve Previous Minutes: Ed made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. This was seconded by Christine and was so voted 2-0 with Laurel abstaining having not been at the meeting.
3. LED Sign Update: Dana reported that the FEMA budget is always held up and it could be several months before we hear anything. He said that Mr. Cleaves of MEMA was personally speaking to the grant decision-maker on our behalf for WHEN the money comes in.
4. Solarize Initiative Update: Dana reported that Sara had indicated that Re-Vision was the selected vendor, and that Solarize Seacoast might be set up next to EEC at Festival Days. Still waiting for web material to help promote. They are trying to do a gathering / presentation at the Grange on August 16, 17 , 23 or 24. It was suggested the EEC attend the event and have our handouts.
5. Town Hall Air Distribution Project: Ed reported that the report came back and it called for ductless heat pumps. The existing boiler and air handler are at the very end of their useful life. We need to plan to upgrade the system – quickly. Dana discussed the Capital Improvement Plan being developed. We discussed potential town hall expansion and that any design must be big enough for the expansion and must be expandable. Also discussed making some recommendation to the Select Board (S.B.) if the system should fail, especially in the winter. Dana suggested he draft an RFP or get a couple of estimates to see what kind of budget we should plan on.
6. Landfill Solar Project Update: Dana reported that the vote failed. He said the budget Committee said they did not know how far along we were, what permitting was approved.

He said the biggest factor was the legislature / bills concerning net metering and the unknowns. The Committee felt certain that any change would be a “going forward” change and we may have missed the boat. Christine said that on 7/24 the PUC was meeting to start that discussion. Discussed maybe having to wait a full year – charter provision - meaning that all the negotiations with Barrington Power would have to start over. Dana said most of the engineering and permitting work, actually, could still be used in a second round of negotiations, but that clearly whatever the money deal was, will need to be adjusted (CMP was just approved for a 7% increase). Decided to keep advising SB and others of the value of this project.

7. Police Station weatherization improvements: E reported that he had been through the Police Station and found that 1) the mechanicals there are not as old as Town Hall, but still quite dated. He said the ductwork was not insulated and was above (squashed to 3”) insulation. He said that on the 18th at 10 am, he was meeting with Marzetti Electrical to review all three generators. He said he planned to meet with Police Dept. again. He said that he could find no balancing dampers. The Police generator has a block heater and runs non-stop, very high costs to have on standby, and is adequate to power the station and in a bad location. He said the station also has code issues such as return duct going through sully port (exhaust in building).
8. Eliot Festival Day Planning: The Committee had seen the proposed handouts. Nick is going to pick up the tent, table and handouts and staff. Sara had said she would be willing to help at the table as well. Nick said he could make some posters. It was suggested that we have data / solar at PW and its effectiveness.
9. Energy Usage Logging: Laurel reported that Ed and Dana and her had recently met and the Finance Director would now be adding the energy “units” into the bill description when paying bills and then by the 15th of each month, Finance will send the report and Laurel will be willing to manually extract the units information, compile and spreadsheet the data by building. No need to call oil companies, Irving, logging into CMP. The 2015 data would have to be pulled from the files, data recorded and files returned. Laurel said she would do so, and Nick offered to help. Discussed going to a single gas card – WEX. Would simplify getting that data. All this data should primarily be used for management decisions and for showing that these investments work.
10. Weatherization Boot Camp: Ed reported that he had reached out to the High School about a program where high schools earn community service credit for going with a weatherizing installer, paid by York County Community Action for low income people with inefficient heat systems / houses. We need to more fully develop the plan given school year, sports, possibly needing an adult chaperone with the contractor. Christine suggested that it is very likely there are grants out there if we wanted to fund it ourselves.

Laurel questioned if a program like this was part of the committee's "mission statement." The Committee looked it up and the project very much is within their mission.

11. Other Business: Next Meeting we will need to adopt by laws, and possible revisit our mission statement while doing so.
12. Adjourn: Christine made a motion to adjourn the meeting (at 5:35 pm). This was seconded by Laurel and was so voted 3-0.