

**Sudbury, MA, Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee
Meeting Minutes January 7, 2010**

OPENING:

The meeting of the Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee was opened by Chairman, Bill Braun, at 7:35 P.M. on January 7, 2010 at the Town of Sudbury DPW Building Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members	Attending
Rami Alwan	
Jeffrey S. Beeler, Vice Chairman, Sudbury School Committee	X
William G. Braun – Chairman	X
Robert C. Haarde	X
Dean Holden	X
Edward Lewis	
Robert Morrison	X
Mark Sevier	X
Michael E. Melnick, Co-Chairman, Sudbury Permanent Building Committee	X
Building Inspector, Town of Sudbury	
James Kelly	X

Meeting Agenda:

- The meeting was scheduled to address a number of administrative issues and to take steps to organize and plan for long range goals and efforts in accord with the Committee’s charge.

Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes from the December 22, 2009 were approved.

Committee Goal and Priorities:

- The Committee generally discussed the document titled “Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee 2010 Action Plan” that had been circulated by Dean Holden. The consensus of the Committee was that this document provided a useful framework for organizing the goals and priorities of the Committee with some minor additions as addressed below. At this time, the goals of the Committee have not been prioritized, and the need to do so was discussed generally. The lists below do not, therefore, reflect a particular goal’s priority.

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○ **Conservation and Efficiency**

▪ **Stretch Energy Code**

The Stretch Energy Code was discussed. Bill Braun updated the Committee on the placeholder Town Warrant article related to the Code. Bob Morrison suggested using some local examples of energy star compliant homes as part of the Committee's efforts to advocate for adoption of the Code. Adoption of the Stretch Code is a requirement of becoming a Green Community. Dean Holden suggested putting together a video for use at Town Meeting. Bob Morrison noted that it would be important to educate as to the scope of the proposed Code in relation to what the base building code will require in any event. Dean Holden agreed to take the lead on this issue and the related video with support from Bill Braun.

▪ **Consolidate and Publish the Town Energy Use Baseline**

Establishing a Town Energy Use Baseline was also discussed. In addition to being useful for planning purposes and the setting of priorities, establishing an Energy Use Baseline is part of the process for obtaining Green Community certification. Bob Morrison agreed to continue his work and take the lead as to this goal.

▪ **Create a List of Recommended Vehicles for Town Use That Meet the Green Communities Guidelines**

Jim Kelly, Bill Braun and Mark Sevier agreed to continue the work of creating an inventory of Town vehicles and compiling a list of available energy efficient vehicles as part of the Green Communities certification process.

It was noted that any such recommendations should be crafted in such a way as to ensure that new technologies could be utilized as appropriate.

▪ **Continue to Research and Find Ways to Cut Energy Costs in Town Owned Buildings**

Bob Morrison will continue his analysis and work in this area. A discussion about long-ongoing efforts at the SPS occurred. It was noted that with new and larger NSTAR incentives, some projects that were not economically feasible in the past, might now be feasible. Jeff Beeler will raise this with appropriate SPS personnel for consideration.

It was also noted that a sub-category of this goal should be to follow up on the recommendations of the recent energy audits.

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○ **Clean Energy Alternatives**

▪ **Continue Research of Clean Energy Alternatives That Will Work in Sudbury Both Economically and Environmentally**

The Committee discussed the need for all members to work to stay on top of potential alternative energy options. PV, wind, geothermal and bio-mass were discussed.

The Committee noted that providing support for Town/Capital Building projects should be a sub-part of this goal.

▪ **Determine the Feasibility of a Large Scale Photovoltaic Array at the Site of the Landfill on Route 20**

This goal was noted as being appropriate for consideration in connection with the 2011 Town Meeting. This timeline would allow for appropriate analysis to be done. Bob Morrison, Bob Haarde and Edward Lewis will take the lead on this goal.

Bill Braun will also attempt to arrange a meeting between the Energy Committee and the Board of Selectmen [BoS] to ensure that this goal enjoys preliminary support from the BoS before more time and resources are brought to bear.

Bill Braun and Jim Kelly will be attending a program re: the use of closed landfills in this manner. Bill Braun will make inquiry to see if there might be some funding available to pay for seminars and information-related services.

▪ **Determine the Feasibility of Photovoltaic Arrays on all Town Building Roofs, Including the Schools**

This goal was discussed. It was noted that an engineering study would be necessary to determine structural capacity of roofs to support PV arrays. This initial cost, that has been estimated at approximately \$20,000 for the schools only, poses an impediment to furthering these efforts at this time.

A discussion occurred about attempting to have proposed vendors bear such costs. In this regard, it was decided to set up a meeting with a vendor that has proposed a number of large-scale solar projects in Sudbury. This meeting would serve the purposes of educating the Committee as to various funding models for such projects and providing a better understanding of the process of bringing such projects from concept to completion in an era of significant budget constraints. It was noted that it

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would be useful to have financial experts from both the Town and Schools at these meetings, if possible.

Jeff Beeler, Bob Haarde and Mark Sevier would work on this goal.

In connection with the small array for which grant funding has been obtained for the Noyes School, Mike Melnick indicated that he would work with Mary Will of the SPS to ensure that structural issues are properly addressed. Jeff Beeler will put Mary Will in touch with Mike Melnick and the PBC.

▪ **Determine the Feasibility of Installing One or More Wind Turbines on the Nobscot Hill Conservation Land**

Bill Braun and Mark Sevier will investigate the possible use of wind turbines in the Nobscot Hill area. This is one of the few areas in Sudbury with presumptively sufficient wind resources.

▪ **Determine the Best Funding Options for any Energy Sources Deemed Feasible, Including Grants, Loans and Purchase Power Agreements**

A discussion about various funding mechanisms occurred. It was noted that ultimately, most decisions about funding would need to be made by Town Meeting. Bob Morrison discussed his efforts to analyze various proposals. As noted above, the Committee decided to try to set up a meeting with a vendor to obtain more information about such alternatives.

○ **Public Relations**

▪ **Continue to Educate and Inform Sudbury Citizens Through Periodic Public Seminars About What They Can do to Reduce Their Energy Consumption and Save Money**

▪ **Help Raise Awareness of Free and Inexpensive Energy Audits**

▪ **Keep the BoS Updated With Our Activities and Accomplishments**

▪ **Become a Green Community**

▪ **Meet With Energy Committees of Neighboring Towns Such as Wayland and Marlborough, and Look Into Ways to Collaborate and Share Information**

The Public Relations goals were generally discussed and Dean Holden agreed to take the lead in this area and to work to develop an action plan to educate people.

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Landfill PV Array

- Discussion about this agenda item occurred as above. Efforts will be made to set a meeting with a vendor and the representatives of various stakeholders. Meeting with the Wayland Energy Committee was also discussed.

Green Community Planning Assistance

It was noted that another meeting with the Green Community planning consultants was needed. Jim Kelly will make contact and anticipated focus will be on vehicles and the energy baseline.

Updates

- **Annual Report**

The Committee's submission for the annual report was drafted by Jeff Beeler and submitted to the Committee for review. Thereafter, it was submitted by Bill Braun.

- **Fairbanks Solar Collection Project**

An update was given on this grant application. The application was submitted and a decision is pending.

- **Clean Energy Choice Funds Solar Project**

It was reported that SPS has been advised that this grant has been approved in the amount of \$20,582.20. Funds should be received within 60 days. SPS will coordinate with vendors and the PBC related to this project.

- **High Performance Building Grant Application**

It does not appear that an application for this grant was submitted. It was noted that more than 200 applications were filed.

- **Energy Use Baseline**

As discussed above. This matter will be further discussed with the Green Communities planning consultant at an upcoming meeting.

- **Street Lamps**

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Jim Kelly reported on the continuing efforts to work with NSTAR to relamp the Town's street lights with high-efficiency lamps.

Other Matters:

- **Posting of Grant Application on Website**

Bob Morrison made a motion to post the EBCG Grant Application on the Town website. The motion was seconded by Bob Haarde. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

- **Contact with Town Manager**

It was also agreed that Chairman, Bill Braun, will be the point of contact between the Energy Committee and Town Manager, Maureen Valente.

- **Contact with Vendors**

Discussion also occurred as to the point of contact between the Energy Committee and potential vendors. The need to ensure that such contacts are undertaken only with approval of a majority of the Committee was discussed.

- **Meeting with LS Architects Regarding Alternative Energy**

Bob Haarde reminded the Committee of his upcoming meeting with the LS architects regarding alternative energy issues at the High School. He and other members of the Committee able to attend will report to the Committee on the results of the meeting.

Next Meeting:

- January 21, 2010 at 7:30 PM, DPW Building Conference Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:35 P.M.

Minutes submitted by: Jeff Beeler, 9 January 2010