

## JANUARY GREEN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 8, 2015

Attending: John Snell, Jim Hutchinson, David O'Neil, Mary Day, and Linda Conrad. Chuck Miller and Michael Haines attended the first part of the meeting. John Koenig, Jamie Banks and Fan Watkinson appeared on behalf of the proposed Leaf Blower Bylaw.

**Current Green Communities Grant** In order to qualify for the next Green Communities Grant, the current grant monies must be spent by February 18<sup>th</sup>. Among those current incomplete initiatives is the proposal to collect data from the energy management systems, store it on a server and analyze it with the goal of manipulating the system to effect energy savings. Miller is in touch with the network vendor to create credentials to accomplish this; he will forward log-in instructions to do so.

Haines cautioned that it may be impossible to complete certain other projects by the February 18<sup>th</sup> deadline; nevertheless, every effort will be made to do so.

**Next Green Communities Grant** At the February meeting, plans will necessarily be finalized for this grant application if, in fact, such an application can be made. Proposals discussed for the grant money requests include more CTs to monitor town energy usage; funding to study an energy-efficient design for the systems at the Library (this committee understands that CapCom is willing to support the transition to a new air conditioning system at this time); solar collectors on the Fieldhouse; and a new boiler for Pierce House (Haines will explore this matter further). Additional controls for Smith and Hartwell as well as more VFDs were mentioned.

Previously discussed interior lighting for the Auditorium and insulation for the Fieldhouse will be monitored as there continues to be interest in these projects but they are not appropriate at this time pending the school building project outcome.

**Proposed Leaf Blower Bylaw** Koenig outlined the bylaw proposed and the rationale behind it. He opined that the group had a bifurcated agenda: educational and regulatory. He cited limited support for the bylaw by the Board of Health, particularly as it would apply to the Mall area. Snell suggested that support for the educational aspects of reducing pollution, both noise and air, and of increasing energy efficiency, as applicable to the town, was consistent with our committee's mandate but GETC has no role in regulatory efforts.

**Solar PV** O'Neil requested Snell notify the Selectmen that the committee needs a placeholder in the Warrant relative to the possibility of building a solar field at the Transfer Station. Blue Wave projects between 620kw and 1000kw are possible at that site given its topography. O'Neil will explore the interactive parameters of the site further with Blue Wave before the Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with ConCom. Blue Wave has expressed interest in developing a site at the Public Services Building at the same time as the Transfer Station.

**GETC and the Proposed School Building Project** Since 50-60% of the town's energy us used is by the schools, effective energy usage is critical to cost and energy savings. Discussion centered on the importance of this committee to weigh in, at the appropriate time, on the energy effectiveness of any new school building(s) design. Consistent with the town's bylaw, energy design and usage must be a

priority with standards set in advance and measurements monitored upon completion.

**Next Meeting** The next meeting will be held on February 12 at 8 a.m. in the Donaldson Room of the Town Offices Building. Agenda items will include finalizing plans and budget for the Green Communities Grant if the requirements of this present grant are met and developing strategies for solar PV at the Transfer Station.