

Deerfield Energy Committee

February 23, 2023

Minutes

In attendance (via Zoom): Greg Franceschi, M.A. Swedlund, Jason Curtis, David Gilbert Keith, with Pat Kroll guiding the Zoom for the town, Read Predmore (joins at 5:30), Allison Gage visiting from FRCOG

1. Green Communities
 - a. Allison Gage:
 - i. Working on Energy Reduction Plan updating so that Frontier is included
 - ii. Allison still needs info on streetlights and vehicles used by the Frontier School district.
 - iii. Still looking for MassSave Audit
 - iv. David will send Allison Ben Weil's outlines of approaches to minimizing carbon production at Frontier building
 - v. M.A.: we're now aiming for fall GC application
 - b. Jason willing to work with Darius as liaison from DEC
 - c. M.A.: Deep Energy Retrofit audits
 - i. Matt McTeague (sp?) is contact at MassSave. Program will pay 70% for retrofit and the town's 30% can come from Green Communities
 - ii. We could possibly pursue this for spring round of grants. Allison says application date still has not been set
 - iii. Allison says FRCOG is funding a grant writer focused on Inflation Reduction Act
2. Minutes: M.A. moves we accept minutes from 1/12/23. Greg seconds. Approved Unan.
3. Long Term Planning with School Board, other Energy Committees
 - a. David recaps our approaches so far, including school board presentation
 - b. David will write to other Energy Committees of the district
 - c. Jason will approach Darius and Bill about suggestions for boiler project
4. New Stretch Code, Specialized Code: M.A.:
 - a. New Stretch is default, does not require that we opt in
 - b. Opt in basis for Specialized Code which is presumably more stringent
 - c. Aim is that new construction be net-zero
 - d. Mainly something to keep an eye on, talk over with Building Inspector
 - e. Jason reports new Stretch does not require town meeting approval while Specialized Code does.
5. Aggregation:
 - a. Current contract ends at the end of the year. Has been very good pricing compared to utility, likely to be less difference next time
 - b. Town has to authorize someone to be able to sign new contract at a moment's notice when price is as good as Colonial thinks it will get
 - c. Talk of new towns joining: some pushback
6. UMass Solar Program
 - a. M.A. and Laurie reviewed closely, found some errors

- b. One error was assumption that the 01373 zip code area includes only Deerfield (but some of Whately's municipal buildings are within that zip)
 - c. Survey being prepared
7. Bike Lanes: Greg:
- a. Town Common getting the attention (and funding) so little momentum yet
 - b. Also complicated by state/town ownership of the intersecting roads including Park St. where proposed island also expensive
 - c. Greenfield is not acting yet, either, on connection to Old Deerfield. Seeking Community Preservation funds needs town approval
8. Municipal Vulnerability Project: M.A.:
- a. Seeking feasibility grant for tree boxes, healthy soils, and Leary Lot work
 - b. MVP voted to ask SelectBoard to establish a Climate Resiliency stabilization fund
 - i. Would come from town income from alternative energy projects in town
 - ii. Carolyn Ness suggested 50% of that income be dedicated to the fund
 - iii. M.A. moves that the energy committee vote to support a Climate Resiliency stabilization fund. Greg 2nds. Unanimous approval
 - iv. M.A. moves that the committee authorize David to send letter to Select Board to say Energy Committee also supports creation of a Climate Resiliency Stabilization fund to which 50% of town income from alternative energy projects would be dedicated. Greg 2nds Unanimous approval
9. Greg inquires about our budget. Suggests another tree planting if surplus. Tabled till next meeting
10. Next meeting: March 23, at 5:00PM via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
David Gilbert Keith