

# **Colrain Energy Committee**

## **Meeting Notes- Meeting Number 2 - 7/19/17**

### **Present:**

Chair, Elizabeth Erickson, Therese Fitzsimmons, Bing Waldsmith, Al Ladd, Peter Brooks

**Agenda:** Introductions, Town Energy status, Green Communities, FRCOG meeting, priorities.

**Notes;** The notes from 6/21/17 were approved.

**Quorum;** At the first meeting we decided to set the number at 5. Only 4 members were present when we started this meeting. Our 5th member arrived as we were finishing the introductions. We should rethink that number for the quorum given the likely hood of absentees.

### **New Business:**

**2-1 Town Energy;** Elizebeth reported on a conversation with Kevin Fox.

- A Town audit report is due soon, we will have a copy to review.
- Town did not pursue Green Community status because of fear that it would deter new or renovated construction.
- He has an energy report that recommended replacing lighting in the Fire Station and Town offices. A new Town Garage is being designed.
- The Library roof and soccer field are possible places for some solar power.
- We should present the benefits of being a Green Community to the Select Board.

**2-2.Green Community Requirements** Becoming a Green Community entitles the Town to a \$125K energy grant, as a minimum. A municipality should meet the following 5 criteria;

- 1. Designate locations for renewable energy generation..
- 2. Expedite the permit process for renewable energy facilities.
- 3. Develop a plan to reduce energy use from an established baseline by 20% within 5 years.
- 4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles.
- 5. Minimize the life-cycle cost of construction by adopting the Stretch energy efficiency code, which has been updated this year.
- We should be sure that the Colrain Solar bylaw is not an issue.
- The Buckland building community was in favor of passing the Stretch code.
- Therese will speak with Margaret about the Buckland experience.
- Bing will get Shawn Kimberly's feelings on the Stretch code impact.

## **Colrain Energy Committee**

### **Meeting Notes- Meeting Number 2 - 7/19/17**

**2-3. Community Choice Aggregation;** Jim Barry's presentation given to FRCOG energy group. Elizabeth and Peter attended and discussed as follows.

- This is a legal mechanism for a town to establish a "Municipal Light Plant" to purchase power directly from a generator at competitive prices. The power is distributed on the grid. Greefield has completed a plan that was accepted by DPU.
- This will not save any big money.
- The price will be stable for the length of the contract.
- This allows the Town to purchase a greater % of renewable power, with more Green options.
- 1. First the Town must vote to look into pursuing the option.
- 2. The Town and a consultant prepare the plan which will be reviewed by DOER.
- 3. The plan will be reviewed and explained to local citizens, all will have the choice to opt out of the plan.
- 4. When finally agreeable to DOER the plan will be sent to DPU for approval.
- Yearly reporting to DPU is required, and is built into the consultant contract. The costs are included in the power purchase. The Town is permitted to charge a customer fee also.
- We made no commitment to the FRCOG group other than to stay involved, but several communities are moving forward with this process. Leverett has already submitted a plan to DPU.

#### **2-4 Priorities**

- Elizabeth will continue the discussion with Kevin Fox regarding the Energy Audit.
- Peter will attend the next FRCOG energy group meeting and research the latest Stretch Code.

**1-6. Next Meeting:** Wednesday August 16, at 6:00 PM at the Library.

Further reports on the old business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM