

# Dover Long Range Planning Committee

November 17, 2014

Attendees: Jack Donoghue, Rich Forté, Robyn Hunter, Meredith Lawrence,  
Mark Sarro, Peter Smith

Guests: Geno Carlucci, Town Planner

Location: Town Garage Meeting Room

*Mr. Donoghue called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm*

## 1. Approval of minutes of prior meetings

Ms. Hunter moved that the minutes of the October 7 meeting be approved, seconded by Ms. Lawrence. The motion was approved unanimously by all who had been in attendance.

## 2. Green Communities Designation and Grant Program

Messrs. Carlucci and Sarro briefed the Committee on the requirements and benefits of Dover becoming certified as a Green Community under the terms of M.G.L. ch. 25A § 10. So far 123 municipalities have been certified, including Sherborn. The designation would enable Dover to receive substantial grants for energy reduction projects. Criteria for achieving certification are:

1. Zoning for as-of-right siting in designated locations for renewable/alternative energy generation, research & development, or manufacturing facilities
2. Bylaw allowing for expedited application and permit process for as-of-right energy facilities
3. Establish an energy use baseline and develop a plan to reduce energy use 20% within five years
4. Adoption of Efficient Vehicle Policy, committing the Town to purchase only conforming high-mileage vehicles (heavy equipment, fire engines, and police cruisers excluded)
5. Adoption of the new Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Energy Code for all construction, including residential

Note that items 1, 2, & 5 involve zoning and bylaw changes and would require approval at Town Meeting. Ms. Hunter suggested that placeholders be put on the Warrant.

Detailed information on the program is on the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs website at [www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/green-communities/](http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/green-communities/)

Mr. Sarro passed around a copy of a newspaper article from the Dover-Sherborn press discussing Sherborn's certification (attached).

Ms. Hunter indicated that she would consult with the other Selectmen during their meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2014 as to the possibility of having this Committee coordinate an effort to determine the feasibility of obtaining a Green Community Designation for Dover. This would involve the Committee functioning as "project coordinator" and obtaining necessary information and required expertise elsewhere (but in-house).

The members noted that a cost-benefit analysis would be beneficial as would outreach to the community. The members thanked Mr. Carlucci for attending and providing his insight into the process by which a town would obtain the Green Community Designation.

*Ms. Lawrence moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Sarro;  
the motion was agreed by consensus*

*The next meeting will be December 2 at 7:00 pm at the Town Garage*

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Smith, Secretary

*Approved December 2, 2014*

*Attachment: handout at meeting*

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CLOSER TO BECOMING A GREEN COMMUNITY

## Sherborn plugs into energy efficiency

By Derek McLean

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In a process that was months in the making, Sherborn is now Green Communities-eligible.

The Board of Selectmen at its meeting on Thursday night signed off on the town's energy reduction plan allowing Sherborn to become Green Communities eligible. After passing the act, the town applied for designation as a Green Community. The status will bring extra revenue to the town and grant money from the state.

"This opens the door for the town to get additional grant funding," said Selectman Paul DeRensis. "From there, real energy savings, cost avoidance and the potential for alternate energy sources which will produce actual revenue dollars for the community."

Michael Lesser, a member of the Energy Committee, authored the plan, which was backed by Town Planner Gino Carlucci and John Higley, who is the chairman of the Planning Board.

Sherborn will save money from the reduction of energy use, which could save the town up to \$35,000.

"The Energy Reduction plan has a program over the next five-years, which will reduce Sherborn's energy use and consequently cut costs by 20 percent," said Carlucci.

Sherborn is expected to receive around \$100,000 to \$150,000 in grant money from the state in the first round of several payments.

**"This opens the door for the town to get additional grant funding. From there, real energy savings, cost avoidance and the potential for alternate energy sources which will produce actual revenue dollars for the community."**

Paul DeRensis

"We will use the money to do some lighting efficiencies and some studies of the buildings, to make them more energy efficient," said Lesser.

It is unclear how much money the town will receive in future rounds of grants.

The Energy Reduction Plan is the final part to a five-step criteria allowing Sherborn to become Green Communities eligible. Four of the criteria's were previously passed at Town Meeting, including the installation of a photovoltaic overlay district at the town's landfill, a Fuel Efficient Vehicle policy, and a stretch energy code.

"This is the final and last step of a long process," said DeRensis.

According to Carlucci, the town will continue to find ways of saving electricity in several buildings, including Pine Hill Elementary School.