

Dover Long Range Planning Committee

March 10, 2015

Attendees: Jerry Arnold, Jack Donoghue, Rich Forté, Meredith Lawrence,
Mark Sarro, Peter Smith

Guests: Joanne Bissetta, Green Community Coordinator, Northeast
Region

Location: Town Garage Meeting Room

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

1. Approval of minutes of prior meetings

Mr. Forté moved that the minutes of the February 24 meeting be approved, seconded by Ms. Lawrence. The motion was approved unanimously by all who had been in attendance.

2. Green Communities Designation

Joanne Bissetta (Green Community Coordinator, Northeast Region, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources) attended to discuss the Green Communities program.

We went over the work to date on siting a ground-based photovoltaic facility on the old landfill. Ms. Bissetta noted that there are models on the website for the bylaws to enable as-of-right siting and expedited approval.

Establishing an energy baseline and energy reduction plan is the most time-consuming part of the application process. The Mass Energy Insight website simplifies tracking energy use, and it appears that Dover has already begun this process.

The fuel-efficient vehicles policy should be simple for Dover to meet, given the small number of light vehicles in our fleet. Board of Selectmen must formally adopt the policy. The town would also be required to submit a form annually showing the fleet inventory and noting what changes had occurred since the previous report.

The Stretch Building Code is not a daunting hurdle, as it allows more flexibility than the Base Code. Rather than being a fixed list of requirements, the Stretch Code is performance-based and allows the builder to trade off features so long as the over-all performance targets are met. DOER can provide consultants to help explain the Code during informational meetings.

Once the Town is certified it qualifies for a grant on the order of \$125,000 for energy-reduction projects. After that, the Town can submit competitive grant proposals for further projects, which are selected on the bases of cost/benefit.

Since Dover is dependent on oil and electricity for heating (no gas service in town) there are other DOER programs to assist with conversions to alternative systems, such as high-efficiency air-source or geothermal heat pumps.

Ms. Bissetta recommended that our next steps be:

- Make contact with the local school committee and facilities manager.
- Make contact with Sherborn and the Regional Schools to see if they are interested in partnering in this effort
- Start entering data into the Mass Energy Insight database

The Committee thanked Ms. Bissetta for her valuable input and agreed to stay in touch.

*Mr. Smith moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Sarro;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 8:30 pm*

The next meeting will be April 14 at 7:00 pm at the Town Garage

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

Approved April 14, 2015