

Williamsburg Energy Committee Minutes for March 13, 2023

Members Present: Jim Piermarini (Chair), Neal Anderson, Dick Guzowski, Mimi Kaplan

Others Present: Mary Dudek (PSCBC), Charles Dudek

Called to Order: 6:30 PM

Minutes: Minutes from February 13, 2023 meeting approved unanimously by vote with roll call.

Public Safety Complex: Maynard reported on his recent walkthrough of the PSCB facility, the focus of which was status and completion of the insulation. He will prepare and distribute an informal report that will include his observations (including photodocumentation) and recommendations.

There was brief discussion of radiant floor heating system in the equipment bay. The water for the system will initially be heated by propane, and Mary Dudek raised wondered about the possibilities for switching to a heat pump in the future. Maynard mentioned that the floor heating would be a stand-alone system, which will simplify both future conversion and possible tracking of energy usage for floor heating.

Piermarini provided an update on solar design assistance for the complex. The RFP was modified and reissued, since the initial request had yielded no applicants, and there were two respondents (one of which was disqualified). Piermarini also reported that the Solar Working Group has reached the conclusion that Power Options is the Town's best bet going forward, and will recommend the same to the full PSCB Committee at their upcoming meeting. If the PSCBC concurs, the recommendation will then go to the Select Board. It was noted that references had been obtained for Power Options from other municipalities, and that they were very positive.

New WEC Member: Piermarini reported that Williamsburg resident Jonathan Gregory inquired about joining the WEC. He has some energy related experience, having previously worked at PV Squared. The Select Board was not in favor of adding another regular member to the WEC since the committee now has the designated number of members, but was not opposed to adding an alternate member. (Alternates can attend meetings and participate in discussions, but vote only when one or more regular members is absent.) The committee expressed unanimous support for Mr. Gregory joining as an alternate.

Town Building Audit Updates: Piermarini reported that META grant application for the Dunphy School is still under review.

He also reported that he had approached Jim Croteau at National Grid to inquire about their willingness to do scoping studies for energy improvements at the Meekins Library. Croteau responded positively, communicating that they could do up to \$5K of work at no cost to the town and evenly split further costs with the town if a decision was made to proceed further.

This would also hold for studies on the highway garage. Piermarini mentioned that any such studies on the pumps in the well fields would be handled via a slightly different process to optimize use of funds available from other sources. Kaplan suggested that such studies can also be supported under Green Communities grants, and Piermarini noted that that option simply had not yet been explored. Kaplan suggested inviting Chris Mason (Western Massachusetts Green Communities Coordinator) to the next meeting to discuss, and the committee concurred.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM by unanimous vote with roll call.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:30 PM