

## Grantham Energy Committee

### Minutes

Monday, October 7, 2019-5PM  
Grantham Town Building  
Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room  
300 Route 10 South



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The regular meeting of the Grantham Energy Committee was called to order at 5:00 pm on Monday, October 7, 2019 by co-chair Chenevert

Present: Jenna Chenevert, co-chair, Don Fitzpatrick, Andy Gelston, Susan Goodwin, Mike Salo  
Sarah Brock, Vital Communities, guest helping the committee in goal determination

Approval of June Minutes: Don Fitzpatrick moved and Mike Salo seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Correspondence: none

Old Business: No new information to report

New Business:

**GEC Accomplishments:** To give Sarah an overview of the GEC, Jenna provided a list of GEC accomplishments including:

- Energy audit of town buildings
- Street lights
- LED and more efficient fluorescent lights
- Fire Department building audit and update
- 2 button up conservation programs
- Solar information program
- Program on HVAC including wood furnaces and air heat pumps
- Program on better building materials and home design for energy conservation/net zero
- Solar drive tour
- GEC members attendance at Energy workshops and the Vital Communities Roundtable discussions

**Future Goals:** Sarah asked for our ideas for future goals:

- High speed E car chargers
  - Information on new E cars that will be available in the near future
  - Raise awareness of need for E car charging facilities especially on the RT 89 corridor
  - Need for E car chargers in Eastman — contact Eastman directors
- Group net metering information—how homeowners in town can be part of a solar array not on their own property, using net metering
- Develop public awareness for same.
- Encourage the Board of Selectmen to be more proactive on energy matters
- Transportation that does not involve electricity, such as vans, cooperative ride sharing, and bus stops
- Electric car show and tell

## **E-Chargers:**

The State has yet to make decisions on how the VW settlement money will be allocated. The GEC should investigate where and how many chargers the town can support.

1. investigate the business models for car chargers
2. talk with business people and the town fathers about the advantages of E chargers in town
3. Inform them about the business models available and how to install E chargers
4. Once installed, try to be sure there are signs on Rt. 89 showing that they exist in Grantham
5. Rebecca Ohler from the NH Department of Transportation may be able to provide current information.
6. Perhaps we could run a survey asking for input on convenient locations for E car chargers in Grantham
7. Contact Clean Energy of NH for information about the timing of state money released for E car chargers in the state.

POI on E chargers: ChargePoint regarding policy to insure that cars do not park in a charging station for longer than the car needs to charge.

## **Information on Electric Cars:**

- Talk with Henry Herndon of NH Clean Energy. He may be able to direct us to speakers or panel participants.
- Talk with Kearsarge Climate Action for help on electric car information

The GEC asked what other towns are doing: Sarah will try to get current info on other town projects.

- Some towns are working on recycling issues, trying to reduce single plastic use materials.
- Some towns are touching on plastics —waste disposal developing policy against single use plastics

## **Home performance:**

Sarah would like to see the GEC work on conservation/home performance. Eversource is ready to help develop the program and has a good rebate program still in place.

Sarah will provide information on how many Grantham residents have taken advantage of the Eversource home energy audits and pursued rebates for work done to remediate problems found during the audits.

Vital Communities works to educate realtors about house audits and the Eversource programs to tighten up a house. New homeowners might be a receptive audience. Sarah will give us the name of Grantham realtors who have taken the course.

Gordon Tuttle is the program director for weatherization rebates. He can provide information on what contractors have done work in this area, and about the ones he would assign to rework a house. We might consider asking the contractors to talk at a kick off weatherization program.

Once a house has had an energy audit, goals are developed, and contracts are signed, the utility handles the work. It is a turnkey operation after sending in the audit application to signing the contracts. The GEC might wish to contact the contractors to be sure the work is moving forward and if a homeowner has paused, to send emails or call the homeowner to try to get the work moving forward.

Timing: Sarah suggests that nothing should be promoted for home energy conservation until after January 1. Energy audits should be done between January 1 and March 1.

School: The Northeast Energy Partnership (NEEP) holds a conference on building performance in schools. NEEP could be a helpful source if we wish to start a conversation with the school.

**Solar**

- Get current information on solar costs and rebates at the state and federal level. Residents need to know the timing of the demise of the rebates.
- Calendar: The best time to talk about solar installs in April-June.
- Attend the local energy solutions conference to learn about solar advancements,
- Talk to Norwich Technologies for information on other paths to obtain more solar in Grantham.

**Next Meeting:**

Next scheduled meeting: November 4 at 5PM

- Andy Gelston plans to give a power point presentation on real estate taxes regarding solar arrays at all levels of government. He pointed out that homeowners can depreciate a solar array 100% in the first year.

Membership: try to gather information on one of the projects.

**Adjournment:** Mike Salo moved to adjourn, Don Fitzpatrick 2nd. Approved at 6:30 PM