

GRANTHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE



MINUTES

Monday, December 7, 2015-5PM
Grantham Town Building
Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room
300 Route 10 South

The regular meeting of the Grantham Energy Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 2015 by co-chair Chenevert.

Members Present: Paula Bresnick, Jenna Chenevert, Kristina Burgard, Peggy Martineau, Donald Fitzpatrick and Michael Salo

Guest Present: Andy Gelston

Approval of November Minutes: Fitzpatrick moved to approve the November minutes and Burgard seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Correspondence: none

Old Business: At the meeting on November 18th, the Selectman were very positive about the information gained from the energy audits and quotes for the LED lights change. The Selectman want to split the warrant article into three separate articles. They will take the three warrant articles under advisement and have the town legal counsel look them over. It is possible they will only approve the solar portion of it. This is on the agenda for next Wednesday's Select Board meeting.

New Business: Future projects were discussed and focused on solar generated electricity located in open spaces owned by the town. Possible sites included the old dump, the new dump, the airport, the playing fields and the Grey Ledges slope. Also mentioned were the Town Hall, the fire station, the post office and a 90 acre open parcel taken by the town by tax deed. Martineau offered to check the Registry of Deeds and Town Tax cards to determine where the parcel is.

Andy Gelston spoke about Solarize America. He advocated the post office and said it would serve as an example and an education source. Burgard said the building was owned by the Schwartz family and leased to the post office. The question about the minimum number of homes needed for Solarize Grantham was raised. Burgard offered to speak with Bob Schwartz about the project. The Committee asked Andy if he was willing to volunteer to lead the Solarize education drive.

Burgard brought up the possible issue of conflict with the Planning Board policy. Chenevert will contact Sarah Simonds of Vital Communities. Bresnick will do field trip with Nick Casagrande to prioritize which sites may be more viable. Salo will pull down information on procedures from the Vital Communities website, which Andy said has a timeline and the steps needed to have a successful program for Solarize Grantham. He remembered that 15 homes are the minimum required before starting. Martineau will contact Belle Terre for possible interest at condo sites.

Burgard spoke about the “Pollinator Lalapolluza” to be held in March. This group will be planting to attract bees and birds. Those sites may be perfect for solar energy generation. She will ask if they have prioritized these sites. Fitzpatrick will get back to Mike McCrory about the town wide survey results concerning renewables.

Burgard offered to write up an article about the Energy Committee and submit it by the deadline of December 22, 2015 for the Town Report.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the GEC is on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Bresnick made a move to adjourn. Burgard seconded it. 5:55 p.m.