

Town of Coventry

Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Committee Meeting

Meeting: April 6, 2022

Location: Virtual Zoom meeting due to Covid-19

Members Present: Jenn Reilly, Kristine Dennis, Cameron Crouch, Bill Watkins,

Members Absent: Caroline Davis, Wayne Daignault, Bill Glenney,

Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: Jenn Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

Approval of the minutes: Tabled until next month.

Old Business:

Recycling: Recycling E-blast. Bill Glenney has finalized the monthly topics and the Committee gave the thumbs up to send it to the Town Hall staff to include in the Town's monthly newsletter. Jenn will email it to Laura Stone this week. Cameron shared with the Committee some interesting statistics about trash and recycling that we could possibly use for future educational outreach. Bill Watkins is still trying to determine how residents are able to obtain extra recycling barrels. There was a town pilot program which allowed 25 extra bins to be issued but those are all spoken for yet there are still requests coming inquiring how people can go about getting additional recycling bins. Bill Watkins confirmed that the transfer station does accept all household recycling at their location.

EV Chargers- Funding seems to be holding this project up from moving forward. The town would have to come up with some matching money to qualify for the EV charging incentives offered by Eversource so this is currently tabled at the moment as there are other infrastructure projects that are higher priority.

Farmer's Market- This is all set for October 16, 2022. Committee needs to start thinking about what vendors we can get to come to the event, other ways we can get kids or people involved. Possible ideas included a mini energy science/fair that has student participation/contest. Kristine Dennis to look into possible formats for different ages.

Transfer station- Looking at a new location for the transfer station. Looking at a spot right next to DPW and the project should be going out to bid within the next few weeks.

Pollinator Corridor: Energy Committee to brainstorm actionable items for the Energy Committee and Open Spaces to work with together. Energy Committee is going to extend an invitation to Open Spaces to join the Energy Committee's May meeting. Both committees will discuss next steps, timelines, and other items.

Microgrid project- Project is basically at a standstill right now. Town is still looking into addressing gaps in financing/funding and unless a solution is found the project may have stalled.

School Building Committee- Schools are looking to get new roofs and the application process has been challenging which may mean we lose the ZREC solar project slated to go in at the high school. It doesn't look like timing will work out in our favor to be able to accomplish both projects. School is also looking into



relocating some rooms/areas in the high school and middle school to make it better efficient by lining up resources and replacing some outdated infrastructure.

DERA Grant- DPW has not heard back on our application.

Sustainable CT Program: Town Manager's office is still working on finalizing this but Jenn worked on updating the Town of Coventry Municipal Action Plan (a piece of the town's Sustainable CT application) with recent data and the committee provided some comments and feedback on this document. Bill Glenney is going to consolidate all of the changes into one completed document. This will incorporate updated figures and estimates on cost savings that were calculated for the town properties.

Ongoing Business:

Committee wants to put together a monthly or quarterly newsletter to go out to town residents with important updates and items on energy efficiency recycling, and applicable energy type projects in town. Committee to check in with Wayne Daignault on the progress of this project.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6:30 via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kristine Dennis at 7:243 pm, seconded by Cameron Croutch. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Dennis