

8/13/12 Westport Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

On 8/13/12, Co-Chairman Tony Connors called the meeting of the Energy Committee to order at 6:10 PM in the Westport Town Hall. Attendees were Former Chairman Tony Vieira, John Ciccotelli, Edward Goldberg, and Paul Velho. Karl Daxland was absent along with Walter Barnes, Kathy Cummings and Max Kohlenberg.

Old Business: Update status of Solar Project at Town Landfill, including Term Sheet. Mr. Vieira announced that the Term Sheet with American Capital Energy (ACE) had been e-mailed to the Energy Committee members and any comments should go directly to Town Administrator Jack Healey. ACE is in the process of making applications and the matter would be coming to the Board of Selectmen at their next Monday Meeting. Mr. Vieira distributed an ACE topographical map of the Westport Landfill Ground Mounted PV Power System Electrical Site Plan.

Update reports of review of area towns: Mr. Goldberg related his conversations with officials in the Town of Scituate. They suggested that the 2007 Building Code would, in time, move closer to the Stretch Code. He related that the cost of building a 3-bedroom home would increase by \$8000 with the newer code; however, improvements would increase the value of the home and save on energy costs. Mr. Goldberg wants greater consideration of the Green Communities categories. Mr. Vieira suggested looking at the Green Communities from a policy standpoint. Mr. Velho stated that as a new home owner he would not want to spend more money. Mr. Ciccotelli reported on the Town of Canton energy activities.

Update status of By-Law preparation for Fall Town Meeting on Wind & Solar: Co-Chairman Tony Connors reported that in preparation for hearings by the Planning Board, a subcommittee of Mr. Connors and Kathy Cummings are meeting with the Town Planner. Any input relevant to the proposed town by-law should go to Town Planner Sarah Raposa or Co-Chairman Tony Connors.

Update CNG findings: Mr. Vieira has located a CNG station in Middleboro.

New Business: No minutes to approve.

State Legislature final energy bill out of Joint House-Senate Conference Committee. Co-Chairman Connors clarified the bill's impact.

Discussion: Plans & goals for upcoming 2012-2013 Energy Committee session. Mr. Goldberg pointed out that the solar project on the Town landfill will provide only one-third or 600 kwh out of the Town's needs (2,000,000 kwh in total). Mr. Connors and Mr. Vieira spoke of inviting a representative of the School Committee to an upcoming Energy Committee to discuss expanding solar applications to the Westport Schools and the Library.

After a motion by Mr. Vieira, seconded by Mr. Velho, and voted unanimously, Mr. Goldberg was made Co-Chairman of the committee.

Other issues: Extension of the natural gas lines in Westport and contacting New England Gas was discussed. A cost/benefit analysis was suggested. Energy sources such as geothermal, photovoltaic cells, plug-in cars, or hybrid cars were mentioned.

The next meeting of the Energy Committee is to be 9/10/12 at 6:00 PM in the Board of Selectmen's room in the Town Hall.

Adjournment was at 6:55 PM upon a motion by Mr. Goldberg.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Barnes