

Hillsboro Energy Commission Unapproved Minutes
September 27th, 2020; **Bolded items are things to-do**

Meeting opened at 6:13 PM

In attendance: Brett Cherrington, Chairman; Adam Charette; Sue Durling; Jon Daley

Secretary's report:

Reviewed July 23rd minutes. Motion to accept as written, unanimous, except for Jon who abstained.

Energy Star Portfolio Manager Software

Members took a look at the software since last meeting and the consensus is that it seems like it might be useful and particularly since it is free, we will pursue using it further.

Sue reported that she needs an email and a phone number to sign up for an account. **Jon will contact the town office.**

We can link Eversource bills (past and future) automatically, once they know we are authorized by the town.

The software is funded by NHSaves, so it is free to us.

It is usable from a website, so no application to download.

Assessment of Street Lights

From Adam's presentation last meeting, it is cost effective to replace all of the lightbulbs with LEDs (approximate 2 year payback). We also want to look at whether every current light pole is needed, and we will look into whether some can be removed instead of replaced.

Brett wonders if some lights could be replaced with reflective signs marking the entrance to a road, instead; Old Drift Way was specifically mentioned as a low traffic intersection. The question was asked (without an answer) about whether there is a standard that is typical for how many, placement and lumens for street lights.

Jon brought up the 4 lights on Myrtle Street that have been in various state of disrepair for the last two years that we still pay the monthly electric bill for, and showed a pitch black picture of the street unless the residents turn on their outside lights. Sue mentioned Maurice Kreis is a consumer advocate and might be able to get something done about this.

Do they make variable lumen lights that are smarter than just off at sunrise on at sunset? (and does Eversource have a good way to bill for that, since they currently charge a flat rate?)

Henniker put a bid out for a 3rd party contractor to actually replace the lights. Some discussion about whether Eversource could/would do the work, do they charge? They normally replace bulbs and fixtures if there is a problem for free. Maybe they don't replace with more efficient fixtures, since it results in lower income? **Adam will call Eversource and one or two of the contractors that Henniker got bids from to see what the process looks like.**

Building Efficiency

Jon is quite familiar with the Eversource/State sponsored residential energy audit/efficiency program and so talked to Shakes to Shingles (the contractor he has used) earlier today to see if that program works for government buildings as well. There is a program for governments that works somewhat differently than the residential program and the administrator at Shakes to Shingles mentioned that due to COVID19, there is quite a lot of extra money this year, and if we could get moving on it, we would likely be able to get 40-60% of the project paid for (as opposed to 25-40%, which is typical for that program). The first steps are to get building addresses, square footage and fuel bills. Once they receive that, they will do a free walk-through/initial assessment and then they will help us write the application to get the grant money.

Brett is highly motivated to move to non-fossil fuels as part of this process (in addition to making things more efficient). He would like to perhaps see a town policy of when heating systems are

replaced in town-owned property to consider using non-fossil fuel appliances where possible and to look at the bigger picture of environmental costs in addition to purchase price, etc.

Lots of discussion about possibilities for participating in this program and what it would look like as far as our budget timeline, etc. **Brett will talk to Laura (town administrator) about the requirements for the process, addresses and square footage of appropriate town buildings, and heating bills.**

Pedestrian signs

Though it doesn't really fall under the energy commission directives, Sue is interested in the electric crosswalk signals that either have a button or automatically detect pedestrians and alert traffic with lights, etc. Jon knows that the Selectmen are aware of such signs, but due to their purchase price of ~\$14,000 per sign, they are hard to implement. There has been discussion during Selectmen meetings about possibly getting one for the West end of the new sidewalk project, as that crosswalk is particularly bad for pedestrians, due to lighting and the downhill vehicle traffic from both directions.

Meetings

Meetings will be on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6PM. It is expected that the next meeting will be held at the town office, unless we hear from Brett otherwise.

Next meeting: September 10th, 6PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Daley