

Agawam Energy Commission (AEC) Meeting Minutes November 13, 2018 APPROVED

Present: Marc Strange, Jen Bonfiglio, Christopher Golba, Ronald Wieners Jr., Rosemary Sandlin, Douglas White, Mark Morris, Leslie Joseph, Anthony Suffriti, Les Tingley

Not Present: Bob Rossi, Mayor Sapelli

Resident William Clark attended the meeting.

1. Minutes from the 10/9/2018 meeting were approved. *Rosemary Sandlin made the motion and Les Tingley seconded it.*

2. “Cooler Communities Agawam” Ener-G-Save and commission members who attended planning meetings presented information on “Cooler Communities Agawam” event.

Judy Eddy (Berkshire Cooler Communities) described the Berkshire EXPO (4 th year) goal that brought schools and other agencies together; described actions and pledges to take actions. Leslie Joseph asked for endorsement from AEC and the town council and asked for two additional members of AEC to commit to active involvement in the Agawam event. *Rosemary made the motion Doug White seconded the motion for the AEC to endorse Cooler Communities Agawam event.*

Rosemary Sanlin and Anthony Suffriti offered to sponsor this as councillors for the town council endorsement.

3. Streetlight Audit - proposal for towns of Longmeadow and Agawam to collaborate on efforts to purchase towns’ streetlights and poles and replace the bulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs.

Mark Gold, town of Longmeadow selectman, related history leading to a town plan to buy back streetlights and replace bulbs. A copy of the proposal was passed out to commission members. The primary objective of Mr. Gold visit was to invite Agawam to jointly conduct an audit of its town streetlights, with the hope that working with multiple towns will provide more leverage in dealing with Eversource and potential cost savings with multiple projects.

Paul Vesel, Director of Business Development - NE USA Realterm Energy, gave a detailed overview of the LED streetlight conversion process including cost and savings projections for Agawam, and financing options. Printed copies of the proposal were distributed to AEC members. Both Mr. Gold and Mr. Vesel stated that the streetlight audit is independent of other parts of the process.

The committee discussed how it could help facilitate this process for Agawam. Marc Strange shared that Columbia Gas money would cover the cost of the audit. Les Tingley suggested that the mayor set up a task force for the audit. *Chris Gotha made a motion to send positive recommendation to mayor for the audit and join other communities. Les seconded the motion.*

4. Communications Task Force Updates on development of Commission newsletter and approval of design and on RISE and PACE requests for public awareness assistance.

Mark Morris presented a draft copy of first Agawam Energy Commission newsletter - which looked

great! A suggestion of name change, how to circulate and frequency of publishing (begin with quarterly), and budget for printing were discussed. There was a suggestion to include it in the Agawam Advertiser. *Mark made a motion to proceed with the newsletter and Leslie seconded the motion.*

Members of the task force (Mark, Les, Ron Wieners) presented options for communicating about energy related programs and events such as; facebook page, website; provide copies for Library and Senior Center; photo options to build a video bank. They also suggested that organizations such as Ener-G-Save, PACE and RISE might want to speak to residents directly through meetings at the library or Senior Center.

5. Energy Commission Bylaw/Code Amendments Changes Change in distribution of members

There was a review of suggested changes in membership of the Energy Commission

- lowering total number of members to 9
- increasing resident members from 4 to 6
- reducing council representation from 3 to 2
- 1 representative from the town administration

There was a suggestion to have a representative from the high school.

Les raised the question about meeting as subcommittees more often and meeting as the entire committee less frequently. There was some discussion on the bylaws changes and the meeting changes. It was decided to table further discussion until the next meeting.

Doug moved to adjourn the meeting and Mark seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned around 6:42 p.m.

**Next meeting of the Agawam Energy Commission
Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at the Agawam DPW at 5 p.m.**