

18Dec23 Green Communities Meeting:

- Member attendees: Dave Blatt, Dave Passios, Kim Duffy, Chris Holden
- Non-Member attendees: Ben Howard, Eric Hevy (School Facility)

Agenda:

Call to Order 6:32pm

Review and approve any pending minutes

-Approved meeting minutes from Oct 17, 2023

Updates

- Facilities Eric Hevy reached out to MA Green Communities. Info provided led to no projects qualify for grants (example: due to not using heat for mini-splits, only cool). Dave B to look into what information was provided to state.
- Ben Howard reached out to Unitil, Unitil has been responsive. Also reached out to Municipal & School Facilities personnel
- Green grants should be a part of the Capital Planning process
- Dave B to request from Kelly (area lead for MA Green Communities) to provide an overview of how the program is shifting (from fossil fuels to ??)
- Climate Leaders Program -> where the program is headed towards
 - To be eligible for Climate Leader Community certification, communities must meet the following requirements:
 1. Be a Green Community in good standing (*Fulfilled*)
 2. Have a local body (sustainability committee, energy committee, etc.) that advises the on clean energy/climate initiatives (*Fulfilled*)
 3. Commit to eliminate on-site fossil fuel use by 2050 (municipal buildings/operations) (*How to fulfill? - Master Plan?*)
 4. Create a municipal decarbonization roadmap (*How to fulfill? - Master Plan?*)
 5. Adopt a Zero-Emission Vehicle first policy (*Fulfilled in practice, documented?*)
 6. Adopt the Specialized Opt-In building code (*How to fulfill?*)

Public Comment

-None

Update on LED Streetlight conversion project

- LED changeover, some might not have been put back up? Due to LED changeover, we have an abundance of net metering from town solar farms for new electrical projects to pull from.
- Town Solar panels (middle/high school roof, primary school (?), Chase road, twin city Nexamp)

Potential projects for Next Grant Round (best potential options in italics):

Town and Facilities:

- Upgrade current mini splits in Ritter building/HVAC repair [FY25]
- Upgrade senior center hot water system (need more details) [FY25]
- Replace town hall windows [FY26]
- Upgrade library HVAC system upgrade [FY27]*

- Replace oil burner in public safety building [FY28] - (Suggest switch to mini splits, instant hot, geothermal heat pump instead)*
- New/replace teen center windows [FY28]
- Update senior center HVAC [FY30]

Police Department (All new vehicle purchases should consult Green Communities Committee):

Installation of electric charging stations may be needed

- Replace command car*
- Replace marked police vehicle*
- Replace traffic vehicle*
- Replace unmarked police detective vehicle*

Public Safety/Utility:

- none determined for GC currently

School Department:

- Primary school AC units purchase*
- Turkey hill complete window replacement [FY27]*
- Turkey hill mini splits [FY27]*
- Replace Gas condensing boilers [FY28]*

Community outreach

- Finding more members from other committees (school committee, DPW, etc)
- How to make it easier to apply for grants? There is an online form that the contractor would fill out (or would be provided by the energy assessment). Mostly anything under 250k
- Website: run by town, would need to submit contents to website
- Facebook page: May have more traffic. Kim D to create a page, content TBD. Goal to have both grant information but also a sustainability focus. Examples: Solar panels, federal energy grants for residences, educational pieces.

Timeline for the next meeting

- Potential January 2024

Meeting Adjourned: 7:54 pm