

## Energy Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

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TOWN OF WESTMINSTER

**Date of meeting: December 7, 2023**

**-Attendees:** Heather Billings, Kerry Koskinen, Isaiah Grigos, Doug Hurley in person, Kevin Keena Chris Collins and Kelly Brown by Google Meet.

**-Minutes Approval:** None discussed.

**-Agenda items:**

**-Discuss Westminster energy reduction projects.**

- Fuel efficient vehicle list:

The town vehicle list is being populated to the Mass Energy Insight website automatically by the RMV now.

Should a vehicle be purchased in violation of the requirement there needs to be a plan submitted to correct it in the future.

Emergency response vehicles are currently required to be hybrid by July 1, 2024, however the low availability of options is likely to make that date move further into the future.

Grant incentives are \$5000 for hybrids and \$7500 for full electric.

**-Energy Conservation Projects:**

We need utility project incentive funding commitment letters from Util and National Grid in order to move forward. When we have these we can schedule project kick-off meetings. Chris has received the weatherization and lighting replacement project commitment letters. The mechanical system controls project information was just sent to the utilities for final commitments by Tom Lesure, therefore no letter is available yet.

25% of the GCA grant money will be distributed after the kick-off meeting. 50% will be distributed after Energy Conservation Inc. receives the first payment. The final 25% of the grant will be disbursed after the projects are all complete and verified by Kelly.

Chris suggested the weatherization projects could be started possibly as early as mid January. Air Barrier Solutions is the contractor and anticipates it being a 2-week project. Lighting should be installed during February vacation.

Construction kick-off meetings with Charlie Barnhard, Chris Collings, EAC members and the contractors will be needed before work may begin.

-Quarterly reports for the school projects will be required starting with the first quarter of 2024.

Mass Energy Insight website:

-Kelly will email links tomorrow to get the EAC members access to the Mass Energy Insight website.

-There are five videos available for new users showing what MEI is and what it can do.

New Green Communities programs:

-Climate Leader Communities are those that adopt the opt-in Stretch code and make a roadmap for greenhouse gas reduction.

-Decarbonization grants are available which can offer up to \$500,000 for the work and \$25,000 for design.

-Energy efficiency block grants are available for studies for decarbonization projects.

-There may be "seed money" for a town position to manage energy efficiency projects.

**-Discuss redistributing solar electric credits among town electric accounts.**

-Doug has gotten a revised Schedule Z submitted to Kearsarge Energy to redistribute solar electric credits across town accounts.

**-Other business.**

-The GCA annual report has been submitted by Kayla at the MRPC on time. Note that the MRPC has not been hired to do any other future reports.

-Discussed how there is no formal town process for ensuring new vehicles meet the guidelines for GCA fuel efficient vehicles. It was suggested to discuss this process with the Capital Planning Committee which is the entity that these purchases would go through.

**-Agenda and date for next Meeting:**

-Next meeting is planned for Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

**Minutes Submitted by Kerry Koskinen, Secretary.**

 1/5/2024

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