

Green Communities Meeting

Opened 6:23

Present: Jon Londa, Karen Chapman, David Blatt, Neil Sullivan, Robert Oliva, David Passios, Jay Simeone

No public comment
No minutes to review

The town received a letter from Unitil with the cost of \$89,161.56 for purchase of streetlights. We are also trying to get a list from Unitil on when light and arms were last replaced to have a better sense of age when we go out to bid. MAPC suggested towns need to look at potential old corroded wiring that needs replacing. Should factor this into projected costs.

Unitil gave us a copy of the December bill with all of the lights. Out of the \$6000 bill for the month, \$4327 is maintenance 2021 is for the actual electricity.

Karen reported April 9 is the next round of grant funding and we'd have to have all work done, paid and reported by February 12th.

If we miss April 9, the next opportunity would be October 8th. Rob and John- would we be able to complete the school and appliance purchases by then? Rob is a little concerned it couldn't be completed by that time. Particularly any work at public safety where work needs to be done with a contractor. The Public safety building has a form related to retro commissioning repairs that the vendor needs to fill out and send to Heather. Heather has not received that.

John described the Building Operator Certification course that he went through 3-4 years ago. We have a slot for someone from the town side and the school side to take the course. Rob said he'll look at it and if it's something he can do, he'll do it. John talked to colleagues about someone taking the class but it hasn't gotten confirmation. He will follow up.

At the Teen Center David is working on activities there but would be hard pressed to complete by February.

John is working on an LED retrofitting project at schools. After installing, a couple went out, and more are on order.

Also, at the schools, a double convection oven and new reach-in cooler is in. The milk cooler is coming in next week. Disposal of the coolers will need to be done and then the project is complete.

Earlier discussions included hot water tank replacement at Primary School but once reviewed, the cost, at 30K, was prohibitive. We won't be able to do this with these funds. This potential project should get cancelled from this grant round.

Heather asked- if a project ran under estimate- can we reappropriate/reallocate? Karen reports that competitive grants are not eligible to reallocate but will check with Kelly. Heather reports she has an email from Jane that we can shift funds around within our projects.

Timeline for purchase- We'd like to get info on the age of infrastructure from Unitil before purchase. Should we look to do this ASAP or wait for more info? Unitil's attorneys are still working on a sale agreement. Liz suggested minimizing the time we own lights before the grant is approved for the retrofit. Karen- suggests we RFP first to have the costs of retrofiting then apply for grant, and make the purchase at that time of getting grant. There is also an effort by members to audit street lights, for adequate lumination and whether they are currently working. Robert suggests we don't try to go brighter on any lights so we don't get complaints from residents who see the light as too bright. He suggests don't make too many changes on lights. Karen suggests trying to get geocoded coordinates- MRPC can make a map of each pole. Rob worked in Gardner and did retrofit, the contract there was \$580 per light replacement. Dave is going to reach out to MAPC who now does consulting about light procurement. Sent a booklet on development of scope of work for retrofiting streetlights.

John wants to remind all, we have net metering credit going against this. Once we own lights, we need to move net metering credits, maybe to public safety. We would then save that money otherwise spent on electricity. We will also have savings in maintenance charges of 4000 per month by until.

Upcoming tasks:

Chair asks that we look over the documents sent from MAPC about converting street lights and putting together an RFP.

We'd likely need to have projects complete by August and reports done and submitted to apply in October.

Rob has a copy of the contract from Gardner for retrofit and will get that to us.

Meeting in February.

Motion to adjourn -NS- LM second. 7:24PM.