

Sustainability Green Advisory Committee Minutes

November 12, 2024

3:45 PM –6:00 PM

Town Hall Lower Level Meeting Room

And on Zoom

In attendance: Lynn Arthur, Glorian Berk, Tip Brolin, Rob Calvert, Deiter von Lehsten, Paula Godfrey, Tom Houghton, Evan Mason, Mark McIntyre, Amy Paradise, Ed Paradise, Seth Race, Adrienne Wooduck,

Guest: Leslie Greisbach Shultz

Remote: Susan Boyle, Sarah Burmeister, Mary Ann Eddy, Suzzanne Jansson, Tommy John Schiavoni, David Ulrich, Jesse Warren,

October minutes approved

DOE Grant for Heat Pumps— Lynn Arthur

Seth and Lynn have been working on a Dept of Energy (DOE) Energy Efficiency & Conservation Black Grant (EECBG) application that was due Oct 31. Seth will review with Janice tomorrow. The Town was allocated \$126,000, however we must describe how it plans to utilize the funds via an Application.

EECBG provides several pre-approved models, of which one is identical to the Heat Pump campaign which was planned as the next community campaign under NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program. Seth got control of the EECBG application process 4 days before the deadline. Along with assistance from Victoria, we were able to solicit support from Supervisor Moore who signed the Letter of Intent To Apply by the deadline. The Supervisor's office engaged the Town Attorney who spoke to DOE and arranged for a more time to respond.

We aim to use the \$126,000 to underwrite a Town program whereby homeowners would be incentivized with a rebate up to ~\$2000, to retrofit their carbon-based heating systems with heat pumps. Low-income households would be prioritized, ie. a retrofit at Riverwoods involved an air-source heat pumps and electrical work cost of ~\$33,000 but since they are low income qualified, out of pocket cost was < \$500. Assuming a cost of \$500 to \$2000/household = 50 to 200 retrofits. Many of the mobile home occupants are living on less than 25,000/yr.

We *were* going to execute a heat pump program for the Clean Energy Communities grant program, but now the CEC program has been terminated, we will repurpose these assets quickly and target them at EECBG. Lynn, Seth and Victoria are working on the EECBG application.

Tommy John indicated that this marketing program could be combined with part of phase 1 sewer upgrade to reduce nitrogen. STP sewage treatment plan program goes well with the DOE grant because it prioritizes the same low-income communities.

North Sea Community Solar enrollment update – Lynn Arthur

We have 650 subscribers enrolled. Bill credits will start flowing in the March/April timeframe to subscribers, approximately 2 months after the project becomes operational. The number of subscribers are higher than expected relates to the annual electricity consumption of the applicants. For example, the mobile home subscribers use 4-6000 kWh/yr. -- (by way of comparison, Lynn uses 12-14,000 kWh a/year).

Virtual Benefit Assessment Audit (VBA)

There are 3 sections in our electric bills-- supply, distribution and other (taxes); the VBA is typically less than \$5/month. In 2008 Town made an agreement with LIPA to bury the lines underground. LIPA financed the cost over 20 years, signed an agreement with the Town (and perhaps other anchor tenants in 2008), and shared the cost amongst 25,000+ PSEG customers in Southampton. (Note: The actual number is closer to 65,000 customers)

Steve Abramson who lives in Water Mill was monitoring the way LIPA was billing us and found irregularities such as when customers weren't paying their bill, their debt got spread over the whole VBA. Various community members wrote letters, gave testimony at public hearings, and Lynn asked the DPS LI Director to include VBA in the LIPA Audit that occurs every 5 years. The Dept of Public Service put a team on it and are ready to meet with us to review their findings.

LIPA is currently burying the lines between the Deerfield and Southampton Village sub-stations. We do not have to pay for this project.

Clean Energy Communities—Seth Race

We believe we have 4 stars and need to get our projects in asap to let them know how we want to spend \$445,000 to spend. We are considering: 1) Community Center in Flanders for solar (200,000) and HVAC to spend 250,000 and 2) North Sea transfer station re-roof for \$44,000; North Sea already has the hook ups. Projects will generate energy and heating and cooling.

Outreach—Evan Mason

We will be holding the last Clean Energy Communities event on EVs at the Hampton Library at Bridgehampton on Nov 30 at 3:30pm. Rosemary Mascali, Chair of Drive Electric LI Outreach will speak on what it's like to own, maintain, and drive an EV.

Mark McIntyre

Deiter had requested of Tom Houghton that new commercial developments in the Town would be required to put in systems to capture rainwater thus, reducing water usage. We want to make a recommendation to see how to enact this, (Shelter Island faces a systemic ground water shortage, they do have a cistern requirement).

Ted Talk on recycling of glass bottles— Deiter von Lehsten

East Hampton is doing this as per Lena. Recycled glass is being used to enhance rainwater infiltration, replenish the dunes, etc. Let's get someone from EH to come talk to us!

Better Bottle Bill—Suzanne Jansson —

Better bottle bill is going to be re-enacted in NYS—it did not pass last year. Hopefully it will be passed in 2025.

Trees-- Deiter von Lehsten

Legislation in Town –clear cutting is going on without much control

Jesse Warren- SH had tried to control this in the past.

Mary Ann Eddy—Sag Harbor passed law to require permits to cut trees for anything over 12” DBH (diameter and breast height). Canopy and indigenous trees should be part of the replacement.

CAP— Rob Calvert

Rob expressed concern for how the Town would achieve a 88,000 MT CO₂e reduction through carbon sequestration or 37% of CAP’s overall goal. The consultant (Ramboll) has been queried on its assumptions and strategies. Rob has meetings scheduled with Jacquie Fenlon to review CPF’s role in CAP (suggested as significant) and Janice Scherer to review the sequestration priority. Ramboll suggested there would be a significant capital outlay to increase carbon sequestration. They did not differentiate carbon sequestration by decade as with other priorities.

Rob believes that if the Town is to increase its carbon sequestration capacity it must also overcome expected losses caused by Climate Change and development. Roughly 1/3 of the town baseline carbon emissions (790,000 MT) is to be addressed by state actions (BAU), and roughly 1/3 of the expected CO₂e reductions (remaining emissions), are expected to require pathways that are still not identified. Rambol’s figure did not differentiate carbon sequestration by the decade.

Deiter:

What can we as a committee do to recommend actions to reduce GHGs?

Well over 95% of what is expected to be achieved is going to come from \$ outside of the Town.

Look at every priority, strategy and potential action; Rambol hasn’t identified how to be most effective. Try to figure out which strategy within each action, within next 6 months.

Discussion ensued as to how to convey recommendations and priorities that would be helpful to the Town Board but also encourage more intentional action to reduce GHGs.

Waste Management—Tom Houghton

We hope to get a glass pulverizer in 2025 at North Sea. 60-70 % of comingled waste. We will get savings off the front 60/ton, would like to use to backfill foundations to sell it to raise \$.

Listen to Tom’s presentation at the Nov 7 work session [HERE](#), starting at minute 2:03.

Particularly interesting is segment on recycling, incentivizing recycling, increased charges for and potential bailing equipment to make selling cardboard more profitable, as the Town Waste management currently operates at a deficit.

<https://southamptonny.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=9307&Format=Agenda>

A letter/report from Sustainability Advisory Committee to board that includes accomplishments, goals, and *prioritized* recommendations would be helpful.

Compost Adrienne Wooduck—

Tom needs more info from the Committee as to how we want to pursue; Mary Ann will get back to him and Tom will follow up.

Meeting Adjourned by Deiter von Lehsten.

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, December 3 at 3:45