

Camden Energy and Sustainability Committee

MINUTES - DRAFT

January 4, 2016

6:30pm, Washington St. Conference Room

Chair: Anita Brosius-Scott

Next Meeting (Note time and place!!): January 18, 2016, 5:30-6:30. Municipal offices are closed on Martin Luther King day. Meeting will be held at **Watershed School**, 32 Washington St.; entrance on the northwest corner of Washington and Mechanic Streets.

Present:

Anita Brosius-Scott (Chair)
Pete Kalajian
Dana Strout
Brian Robinson
Ken Gross
Peter Galloway
Sarah Holland

Absent:

Marc Ratner
Marina Schaufler
Anita Brosius-Scott, Chair
Tom Edge
Steven Moskowitz
Jim Heard – Select Board Liaison
Pat Finnigan – Town Manager

Guests:

None

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Select Secretary - Dana Strout

Public Comments – None; no members of public

Committee's policy on Public Comments –

The Chair proposed that we revisit the public comments policy relating to items on the agenda. She suggested that we follow the Select Board protocol on that as well, i.e. members of the public may comment or ask questions on agenda items; the Select Board allows 5 minutes. The matter was discussed briefly and a motion made to allow the public at large to comment on any item on the agenda with the time limits to be set by Chair. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Non-Agenda Items – None

Minutes

Minutes in general - Sarah brought up the concept of the level of detail we want the minutes to reflect. A discussion was had about what information we need to include in the minutes or in some type of report. Not a pure transcript; emphasis on action items, but retain documentation of items discussed. Sarah suggests we create documents to track issues that are discussed at meetings. This documentation of issues would be the responsibility of the subcommittees.

Secretary is asked to send minutes to Chair as soon as possible, but that the Secretary will review the raw notes and clarify anything that needs clarifying before sending them along.

Chair will put minutes into the ongoing Minutes Google Doc; Committee Members may comment but not edit.

November 16 meeting minutes, corrections: Change “October 8” to “October 19.” Sarah Holland was present, not absent. Minutes approved as modified.

Meetings’ Start Time and Duration

Committee decided to move the start time from 5pm to **5:30pm**, keeping third Monday of the month. Committee anticipates that, since most of the work will be done in work groups, the Energy and Sustainability Committee meeting duration will remain at one hour.

Windplanners, Snow Bowl Lodge energy calculations, Opera House Energy Use: These topics, which have been brought up in previous meetings, with reference to further work in subsequent meetings, were put off until the Committee’s goals and approach are decided upon. Their work will be addressed initially by the relevant work groups before being discussed by the Committee.

Municipal Solar Status Update

The US Federal Government in late December extended the 30% Federal Tax rebate for solar and wind power, which provides incentive for the Town to partner with investors in a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) in installing a municipal solar PV array. This extension for three years beyond the end of 2016 extends the deadline for Camden to find a suitable location for an array.

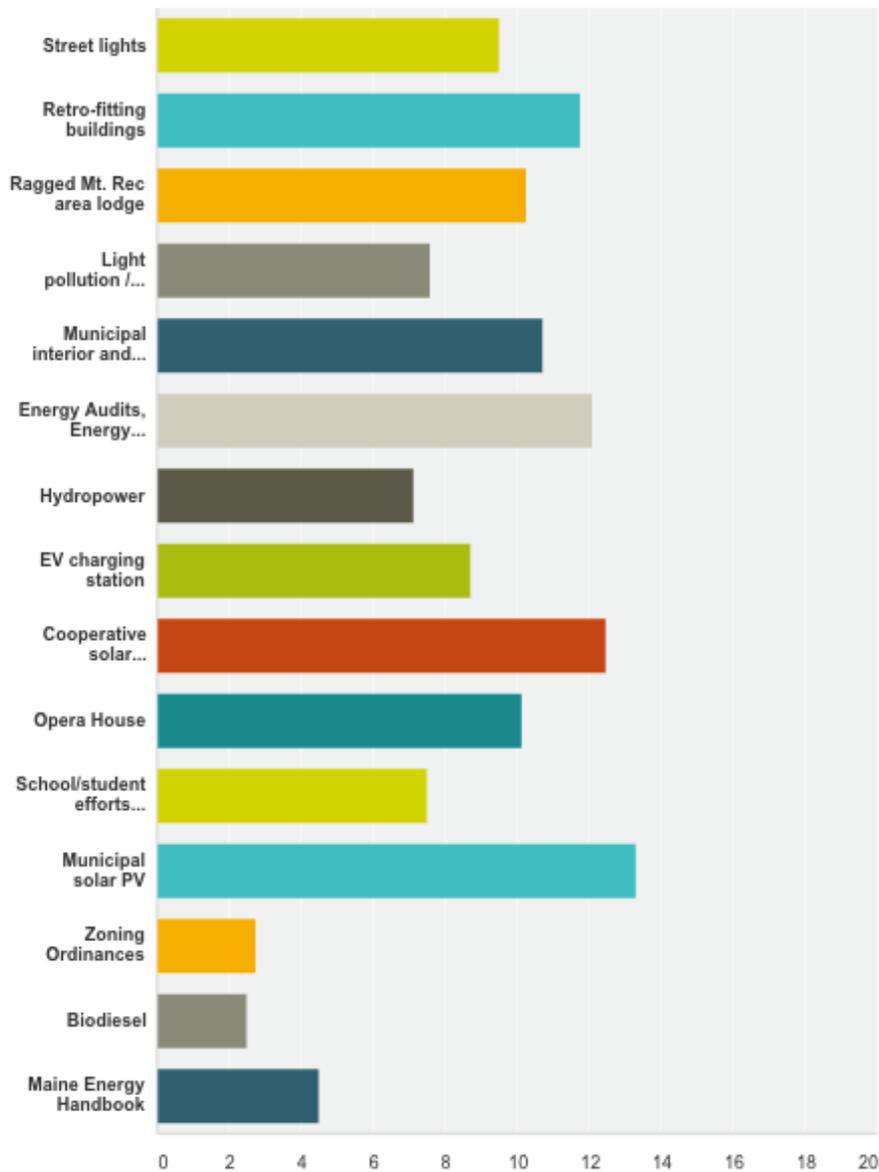
The Town’s delay in identifying a suitable platform/roof top relates to the evaluation by the Town’s engineering firm, Gartley and Dorsky, as to roofs’ strength and MUBEC code interpretation. Gartley and Dorsky has submitted a report to the Town on the Public Safety Building’s roof suitability, along with recommended work and pricing. It has yet to be discussed by the Select Board. With the deadline for installation of a solar array being extended, this topic will be further researched and shepherded within the appropriate work group.

Anita reported that she met with Jim Guerra regarding a suitable site at the Transfer Station for a solar PV array. Jim is very interested in installing an array but the time is not right, as the buildings may be reconstructed and the covered landfill is still shifting and still needs work.

Committee Priorities; Determining Work Group Topics

We reviewed the chart on priorities Peter K. produced from Committee members’ feedback on a poll of highest priorities as identified by each committee member (see bar graph next page):

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



The committee discussed the priorities per the chart and survey. Municipal Solar showed as the highest priority; Anita proposed a subcommittee for municipal solar.

The Committee then discussed the various areas of interest re the committee's work, and how many of the topics can be combined. The committee discussed the ideas of municipal solar, the goals and charges to the committee and what we hope to accomplish. We recognized that to better set our mission we need to determine what our ultimate goals are: to save the Town money? Save energy? Reduce energy use by a certain percentage? Lower Camden's carbon footprint? To accomplish all these we could simply recommend closing our largest energy user, the Snow Bowl! This example – untenable by our community - illustrated that the topic is more complex and will take time and careful thought. Dana suggested defining what we think our community can do. Peter G., in reference to Watershed School's report to Camden about municipal energy use (June 2015), suggested we achieve energy expenditure savings for the town that work towards reducing our carbon footprint as much as we can.

We discussed setting up a Strategy or Mission work group or sub-committee to work on developing our strategy and what we will try to accomplish.

In recognition that many if not all of the priorities fall into general sub-categories, Sarah Holland suggested and with discussion we agreed that we create **three work groups or sub-committees:**

Energy Supply & Generation

Includes municipal solar, cooperative solar and associated planning and set-up (bureaucratic, ordinances, incentives etc.), EV charging station, wind, hydro, biodiesel etc.;

Energy Demand

Includes energy audits, retrofits, municipal interiors, efficiency, Opera House, street lights, other lighting and light pollution. Evaluation of the new Ragged Mt. Lodge construction plans for energy considerations would be first priority.

Energy Committee Strategy and Communications

Coming up with an over-arching strategy and goals for the Committee: figuring out a game plan; includes studying the Maine Energy Handbook and other documents for guidance, working with school/student groups. Segues to communications, community education and outreach.

Committee members are asked to sign up for their preferred committee by email, prior to the next meeting.

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Adjourn: 7:55pm