

Williamsburg Energy Committee Minutes for January 16, 2023

Members Present: Jim Piermarini (Chair), Neal Anderson, Dick Guzowski, Adin Maynard, Mimi Kaplan

Others Present: Mary Dudek, Charles Dudek

Called to Order: 6:30 PM

Minutes: Minutes from December 12, 2022 meeting approved unanimously.

Public Safety Complex: Solar Update: Guzowski provided a construction update on the complex and the new possibility of a “solar pavilion,” and noted that the solar design RFQ has gone out. There was discussion about the possibility of battery backup, and also of whether grant funding would be available for this: Maynard mentioned Chris Mason (Green Communities Western Mass Coordinator) as a potential resource for connecting with grants. Maynard renewed his offer to do a pre-insulation walkthrough inspection of the PSCB. It was noted that Tariq Abu-Jaber, who serves on the Planning Board, is the newly hired Project Administrator for the MVP grant.

UMass Clean Energy Extension Audit Opportunity: Piermarini reported that he had a discussion with Lauren Mattison of UMass Clean Energy Extension, and that they can do energy audits of municipal buildings but will not be in a position to do audits in Williamsburg until the spring of 2024. On the topic of audits, Guzowski wondered if energy audits could and should be performed on the well pumps used for Town water, which consume substantial energy.

Colonial Power Contract and Next Steps: Piermarini mentioned that the current contract has expired, that he conveyed the WEC’s recommendation that the contract go out for bid, that Town Administrator Caccamo had asked for more detail on the reasons for this. The Committee discussed further, and reaffirmed their feeling that it would behoove the Town to know what other options are available.

WEC Contribution to Annual Town Report: Deadline is in February 15 for updates from the WEC to the Town on what the WEC wishes to highlight in the [Annual Town Report](#). Piermarini asked members to think about this and plan to share suggestions at the next meeting.

Other Business and Updates: Kaplan mentioned that PVPC has funding from DOER to help the town add the Hampshire Regional (middle/high) School to the Energy Reduction Plan, which was developed when Williamsburg was first designated a Green Community. Addition of the regional school to the plan would make the town eligible for DOER grants to fund energy efficiency work at the school, helping the Town reach the aspirational goal of reducing energy use by 20% over 5 years.

Adjourned: 7:45 PM

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM