

Attending:

Lindsay Audin

Joel Gingold

Carl Grimm

Brian Pugh (arrived 11:00 am)

Matt Rubenstein

Absent:

Niall Kelleher

Greg Schmidt

Look for underlined commitments to be fulfilled before our next meeting. Also note [bracketed] content providing information subsequent to the meeting.

Old/ongoing business:

Quick updates/holdovers/follow-ups/status of:

- microgrid project: Matt reported on his Q&A with Hitachi, attached at the end of these minutes. After a lengthy discussion, the following conclusions were reached.

- NYSERDA's deadline for receiving a Phase 2 grant has been missed. It would have covered a portion of the design development work. The only way to proceed at this point would adhere to Hitachi's more limited scope of work (i.e., none of NYSERDA's requirements would pertain).

- proceeding without a grant may still have merit, but will require a point person (e.g., a Village staffperson) to pull together the parties, assess interest in proceeding, and (if most want to proceed) create a Memo of Understanding and maybe an LLC to negotiate with Hitachi.

- Matt will request a copy of the actual study (all we have is the PPT. presentation) that should have been posted by Hitachi at NYSERDA's web site. It would then (along with the PPT. summary and the Hitachi Q&A) be provided to the participants for their review. Our Committee would ask that the Village to host a meeting of the microgrid participants to assess which are sufficiently interested to sign an agreement to move ahead.

- energy audit of Muni Bldg: One of the tasks that the microgrid project would perform, if done under NYSERDA, was energy auditing of participating facilities. Hitachi would not do so, except at a separate cost to the requesting participants. To fund even a limited \$2500 audit previously discussed, other funding would be needed. The other option was to secure a \$2500 grant from NYSERDA for passing an EV parking ordinance. Further investigation of that option found it also entailed a new zoning ordinance and permit for installing an EV charger. The difficulty in getting both rules passed (based on past protracted efforts with NYSERDA) was deemed not worth the possible result. A direct pitch to the Village to pay for the audit will be pursued. Lindsay will draft a proposal to Janine for discussion at the next Board meeting. [Subsequent idea: if bids for the Muni Bldg boiler come in low enough, ask for re-allocation of \$2500 of the difference to be applied toward the energy audit.]

- gas conversion project for homes: A contractor list was developed based on five vetted by EnergizeNY. Three would do boiler replacements, of which two will also do just burner replacements. For survey respondents that expressed interest in converting to gas and which are next gas lines, Lindsay will draft a letter (to be sent by the Village) to them in October. It will contain the contractor

list and a recommended process to follow to secure proposals and incentives. They may then proceed as they wish. A few of could be done in time for the coming winter.

For those near lines that must be extended (i.e., the clusters), Lindsay is testing the Con Ed process with the homes on his block that wanted to convert. He met with reps from each firm to get proposals for his own home as a check for are any unforeseen issues.

- Muni Bldg boiler conversion: drawings were corrected and the RFP sent out to contractors. We are now awaiting bids. Hopefully, one or more will be within the Village's capital budget allocation.

- generic flyer: Matt got it done, and Lindsay asked Janine to print 200, as previously agreed.

- changing Muni Bldg fluorescent lamps: Bldg. Supt. Martin Gariepy agreed to replace (as they burn out) the 32-watt T8 lamps with 28-watt units yielding . eventually . a 4 kW demand reduction and an annual savings of ~16,000 kWh and ~\$2,500 (avoiding roughly 5.6 tons of CO2 per year). Matt will calculate the lost savings over the 5 years before the last lamp is replaced. Those number may help persuade the Board to accelerate conversion to 28-watt lamps.

Carl noted that it would be better if all lamps were replaced by plug-in LED T8 tubes. Lindsay detailed the issues with doing so (e.g., ballast compatibility, light level, and distribution). The base cost would exceed \$20,000, and the payback (against 28-watt lamps) could be lengthy. An opportunity for seeking a grant to do so, however, is discussed below.

New/ongoing business:

1. status of Green Community event efforts . Carl and Matt continued their efforts to secure speakers. Carl got a commitment from Catherine Borgia's office for a November date. He had less success contacting a local environmental group, which instead tried to shake him down for a donation. Matt spoke with people at Sustainable Westchester (SW) who were willing to assist, but all were either new to the group or had left on vacation. Lindsay will send contact data for Jennifer Amundsen of SW to Carl for his follow-up. The Committee again discussed content which would focus on what services exist to help individuals be more sustainable in their daily lives (e.g., proper disposal of electronic products). An apparently very similar event in Greenburgh on Sept. 27 will be attended by Carl, who will report back on it. Joel suggested that a synopsis guide for such actions be secured or developed and provided via the Village's new quarterly newsletter, designed to be posted on a refrigerator door.

2. Joel's review/report on Croton's status with the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program . This program appears to hold promise for securing a grant of either \$100K or \$50K for a community project that wins NYSERDA approval. The program involves a competition among the towns in the lower Hudson Valley, and 53 of them have already shown interest. The grants are on a first come, first served basis so assembling a project proposal ASAP would be appropriate. A project must be innovative and replicable by other communities.

Eligibility is based on collecting points from prior efforts (e.g., passing a solar electric permit). Joel found Croton had already collected the minimum points needed to get into the running, but getting a few more would help. At least 4 of 10 tasks needed to be finished, and Croton has done at least 4. Brian and Matt agreed to secure data from the Solarize campaign and Lee Leitner that would be used to demonstrate our achievement to that end. Brian will approach SW for help on this effort.

To take advantage of information we already have, Lindsay suggested two possible projects:

- upgrading the fluorescent lighting in the Muni Bldg to LEDs, but including in the project 5 room demos of the different types of plug-in LED tubes now on the market, versus the 28-watt high efficiency fluorescent lamp. That would allow other communities considering such an upgrade to visit and see how well each type performs (e.g., light distribution, foot-candle levels, etc.), thus helping them make an informed decision. No facility exists in our area where that comparison may be seen.
- an information and assistance campaign to eliminate underground fuel oil tanks, which pose a serious environmental hazard if they leak; our gas survey found that ~20% of Croton oil users have them, and the State offers low-interest loans for replacing them with above ground or indoor tanks. Through a flyer, Facebook, etc., the project would educate and help people get rid of the problem before a leak occurs.

Projects will be evaluated by NYSERDA, with at least 50 out of 100 points (Joel has the criteria) being needed to be considered. All Committee members were asked to bring project ideas to our Oct. 16 meeting. Lindsay agreed to review the application process to assess the work involved.

During his research, Joel found that there was no central point where data for tasks completed was gathered. To address this issue, Matt agreed to work with Eric to post a list of past achievements at the Committee's web page, once that list has been compiled.

3. communication with HV Chamber of Commerce on possible plastic bag ban . Matt spoke with a rep of that group and found it receptive, but had little going on. Deb Milone (914)737-3600, Exec Director of HV Gateway Chamber of Commerce, said she'll post questions about our region's retailers' reducing the pollution from their bag distribution practices.
4. adding EVs to Rotary Club's Sept. 25 car show: Brian persuaded two dealers (BMW and Mitsubishi) to show vehicles. Lindsay got Chevy to send a Volt. Brian to provide contact info to Lindsay so he may nail things down with Greg for an EV spot at the event. [Subsequently, most failed to ensure commitment, so Lindsay cancelled the EV spot. Better luck next year.]
5. possible joint meeting with Conservation Advisory Council (CAC): Brian got us on the agenda for Oct. 5, 7:30 PM in the Muni Bldg. Lindsay to attend and share flyers and ideas for joint actions.
6. several long-term sustainability options:
  - Matt to provide perspectives on local micro-hydro options: no luck at this time.
  - Matt to look into Village car purchasing specs, e.g., standardizing on hybrid EVs. Gariepy to provide specs to Matt for 2017/18 replacements. [Subsequently, possible grant from DEC was raised by Brian to lease EVs for Village. It will be discussed at the next meeting.]
7. SusTeam web page: dated gas survey material was replaced with update.

New item: Matt will participate in a Sept. 24 outdoor PTA Fall Festival event at CET. He will set up a table exhibit of a solar device and hand out our generic flyers. [Subsequently, he got a commitment from Lee Leitner for a device. Lindsay will provide our banner, table, flyers.]

Next meeting date: Sunday October 16 10:30 AM