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2022 AUG 30 SELECT BOARD'S ENERGY ADVISORY (EAC) COMMITTEE MEETING

TOWN CLERK BOURNE

Bourne Library Conference Room on May 24, 2022

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:29 am

Attendees: Carl Georgeson, Chair; Bob Schofield, Vice Chair; Cheryl Keown, Member; Janice Marks, Clerk; Rob Wheeler, Member. Guests include Mary Jane Mastrangelo (Bourne Selectmen), Margaret Song of Cape Light Compact, and McKensie Ryan of the Bourne Enterprise.

Status of Green Energy Designation Update by Margaret Song

- DOER announcement of awards has taken longer than usual because of impact of COVID
- the approval of the Town Administrator may be sufficient to enter the contract phase, not requiring Selectmen vote
- projects could include charging stations, grant for electric school buses, either purchase or lease
- when awarded, the funding will be 25% up front
- reports due to DOER in November 2023--15 to 18 months after award contract is completed
- see below for article from Bourne Enterprise with additional details from the meeting

Cheryl Keown will not continue as member of the EAC effective June 30, 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:32 pm

Bourne Enterprise article with details on EAC meeting on May 24, 2022

Bourne Energy Committee Discusses Updates On Efficiency Grants

By MACKENZIE RYAN. Published in the Jun 1, 2022 edition of the Bourne Enterprise.

Discussions during the Bourne Energy Advisory Committee meeting on May 24 centered around how the town could best use potential grant funding from the Massachusetts Green Communities Designation and Grant Program.

The town is waiting for a response from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) before the process can move forward. Since the fall, the energy advisory committee has explored acceptance into the state program that helps municipalities become designated as a Green Community, which qualifies them for grants that finance additional energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

The committee plans to talk with town departments about entities that could benefit from the funds such as the schools, police department and municipal buildings. A working group of committee members Janice Marks and Robert Schofield will contact town departments to keep conversations ongoing and gather data on where the town can make energy efficiency improvements.

Margaret Song, commercial and industrial program manager at Cape Light Compact, told the committee all projects must be vetted before submission to DOER to identify how the town will use the funds.

"You should be getting at least a notice and then they start with the contracting process. That will go to the administrator for signature and then countersignature by DOER. This is when you guys should get your first disbursement," Ms. Song said, adding that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused delays.

Only Green Communities are eligible to receive funds through the grant program. Once approved, the town will be eligible for a \$172,000 grant to be used on green initiatives, said Mr. Georgeson, the committee chairman.

Discussions turned to where Green Communities Designation funds could be best used throughout the town.

Mr. Schofield said he would like to target transportation in the town, specifically beginning the transition from gasoline to hybrid or electric options. That would include the installation of charging stations across town.

Committee member Robert O. Wheeler said he would like to see charging stations installed before the purchase of hybrid or electric town vehicles. After some discussion among the committee members, Ms. Song said it is sort of like "the chicken or the egg."

"Do you want to install the charging stations or purchase the vehicles first?" she said.

Committee members agreed that school buses, fire department personnel trucks and police department vehicles are all good targets for the funds. Having a routine route and a central location for charging stations were noted as reasons behind the committee's selections.

Conversations also referenced how the town would designate charging stations for town and public use. Logistics of where and how many stations would be needed to meet demand must be worked out with the determined departments, said Mary Jane Mastrangelo, the select board's liaison to the committee.

Ms. Song said she has heard from the state that more money is being given to communities to fund energy-efficient transportation.

"It is a popular question among towns right now, with what do we do with our own fleet and how do we help our residences and businesses to develop the infrastructure," she said, suggesting that the topic of transportation be its own future agenda item.

Generally, towns would have 18 months to disperse the grant funds. However, Ms. Song said that due to labor and material shortages driven by the pandemic they are advocating for longer contracts. Once accepted, Bourne would receive 25 percent of the grant up front. To proceed, the town could only use the funds on projects that are in the existing baseline.

"This is for existing facilities that have already been a part of this baseline, but as long as it is an energy efficiency project that improves against this baseline, then you can do that," Ms. Song said.

Ms. Song also provided an update on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's energy implementation grants. The grant has increased from \$5 million to \$7.5 million, with up to \$200,000 per entity. Although there has been no given date on exactly when the grant funds will be approved and disbursed, Ms. Song said things look promising for the near future.

The grant program has also been extended beyond covering water and wastewater. The grant now also includes nonprofit affordable housing, nonprofit agricultural food distribution and small-business food distribution and processing, she said.

"The reason why I bring this up is because it is for energy efficiency, but also, if you have the energy efficiency, you have the capability to ask for solar," Ms. Song said.

She said the Cape Light Compact is looking into the potential of solar with the Buzzards Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility. With the new wastewater treatment facility, energy-efficient opportunities are limited, but Ms. Song said the compact is still working with Sean Feeney, the town's facilities manager, to look into information on pump stations that could use the grant fund for energy efficiency improvements.