

MEETING MINUTES

Lenox Environmental Committee

May 7, 2018

Superintendents Conference Room

Present: Harriet Wetstone, Eric Federer, Carolyn Butler, Suky Werman, Susan May, David Rimmmler

Absent: Mark Pignatelli

Guest: Veronique Blanchard, Municipal Assistance Coordinator, Western Region of Mass DEP. Cell: 413-325-3472, email: vblanchardmac@[comcast.net](mailto:vblanchardmac@comcast.net).

Call to order: 5:36 pm.

1. Minutes of April 7, 2018. Motion to approve: SW, 2nd: SM, approved. DR abstained.

2. VB is the DEP outreach coordinator to municipalities in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Counties. She's been with the DEP since Nov'17, prior to that was the Solid Waste Coordinator for South Hadley. Her role is to help municipalities get grants such as the SMRF and Recycling Dividends. Recycling Dividends is funded with energy credits with the goal to reduce solid waste and increase recycling. Our solid waste goes to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility ("MuRF"). Discussed the following with her:

- SMRF Grant: We missed the Fed'18 deadline but VB feels we can still apply. This is a "non-competitive" grant. Have to gather data from the town for our application, CB to pursue. In addition we have to spend the grant from last year. Proposed using it to purchase water bottles and HW is pursuing vendors. VB confirmed water bottles would qualify for reimbursement. The grant is a reimbursement and the paperwork for the purchase has to be submitted by June 30, 2018 to qualify for the reimbursement. It is proposed to sell the water bottles, VB not sure if that is ok. Proposed we set up a timeline for the grant so we don't miss any deadlines in the future.

- Recycling Dividends Program - Competitive Grant and must qualify to get into the program. Criteria attached. This grant has a greater financial potential. Municipalities qualify based on a point

system, need a minimum of 3 points to qualify and each point is worth \$350 in grant money. The program is mostly geared to municipalities with their own waste facilities however the following criteria may be applicable to us:

- ~ Subsidized Home Composters for Residents - 1 point
- ~ Residential Hauler Regulation - 3 points
- ~ Comprehensive Hauler Regulation Adopted - 2 points
- ~ Outreach and Education - 1 point
- ~ Textile Recovery Initiative - 1 point - Discussion about how much is collected in the Price Chopper Parking lot. Who's bin is it? Textiles do not necessarily need to be wearable. Unwearable items can be donated to _____ make rags.
- ~ HHW Collection Event - 1-2 points

3. Sustainability Report - SW will distribute electronically.

4. Solar Subcommittee - they've met for the first time. Distributed a breakdown of similar sized towns and current solar output. According to the data (see attached) Lenox is on the lower end of solar development. Municipally Lenox gets solar energy supplied by the Landfill array (Ameresco), Willow Hill in Lee and Billerica from credits. It was proposed that we have someone from the Dept of Energy Resources come and discuss options and explain programs to us. Proposed we have a "solar fair", perhaps invite solar companies to exhibit during Apple Squeeze.

5. Coordination with Affordable Housing Committee. SM want to work with that committee to make affordable housing more energy efficient. She will reach out to the committee and invite a member to a future meeting to discuss areas we can cooperate.

Adjourned 6:54pm, Motion EF, 2nd HW.

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