

Energy Action Committee
Zoom Meeting, 07/14/2020, 18:05

Present: Scott Cyr (SC), Paul Heanue (PH), Mike Kacherovich (MK), Ben Kerman (BK, Brad Moyer (BM), and Michael Reive (MR)

Absent: Beth Porter (BP)

The meeting began with a review of the minutes from the previous meeting. SC moved to adopt, PH seconded, and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

Next, BM indicated that he and Tom Mayo were meeting on July 22nd to discuss the establishment of the climate action planning task force. Further, BM mentioned that the upcoming Selectmen meeting would be a review of the Selectmen's agenda and goals for the coming year, and that it would be a good opportunity to ensure that climate planning measures were considered.

BK asked PH about interactions between the Selectmen and HMLP. PH indicated that HMLP operated independently from the Selectmen. BK then raised the fact that the HMLP board opted to sell its current SRECs, which resulted in approximately \$600,000, and whether some of the proceeds could be used toward energy conversation measures. PH discussed several possibilities HMLP may consider, such as solar arrays at the HMLP headquarters, but that nothing was yet determined. At the suggestion of whether some of that money could be used toward the task force, MK expressed a concern because of long-term nature of the overall project, of which the task force is just a part; also, HMLP has the flexibility to expend its funds on a renewable energy project right away, whereas the results of the task force could take more time. BM mentioned perhaps a compromise view, with HMLP using funds for a renewable energy project, and if any left over, put towards task force planning efforts.

BM then raised what the Committee can do while the task force is still waiting to get underway. He reiterated why the Selectmen, Town Administration, and the Committee ultimately went the task force route, and then solicited ideas on making progress. After discussion, the Committee agreed that, while it cannot make progress on detailed planning and supplying funds without the task force, it can make progress on obtaining broad buy-in from various town constituencies. At this, the Committee members agreed to identify such constituencies, create a script and list of questions for reaching out to them, and divide up the outreach effort. Further, MR expressed the belief that while we have many of the pieces in place to move the effort forward, we don't have a central organizer with experience, perhaps even professional qualifications, running this effort. MR suggested that perhaps the Town starts with the Concord plan and see if it can apply it to Hingham, but still we need a person that can spend the time and pursue that angle. BM indicated that he would reach out to Tom Mayo and Mary Savage-Dunham about the possibility of obtaining a professional resource.

Conversation then turned to the possibility of electronic vehicles (EVs) for the police department. BK introduced the topic and indicated that he had spoken with Chief Olsson and planned to meet with him sometime in the fall for when the police department would be working

on its next budget cycle. BK noted that police vehicles put on about 100K miles a year, which is roughly 270 miles a day—about the maximum distance an EV can handle in the winter. BK solicited thoughts from the Committee members as what might be done in this area. BM mentioned that, while he was aware Mass DOER was piloting electric school buses and had initiated some grant opportunities there, he was not aware of anything for police vehicles. MK conducted some research in this area, and while he didn't believe that a fully electric police cruiser is possible right now based on police department needs, he noted that hybrids are available, and that Acton had purchased one for its police department. MR recommended that Hingham Police reach out to other towns that had tried this. MK also noted that, if police cruisers put on 100K miles per year, the fuel costs exceed the cruiser costs, and so hybrid fuel savings may be quite attractive. Further, SC noted that MA state police acquired Interceptor hybrids, and also that Maryland police had acquired several EVs, but largely for parking enforcement.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 3rd at 5pm. The meeting adjourned at 19:28.