

REAC November 5th Minutes

Present Pete L., John, Andy, Chris, Barb, Kathy, Caleb, Kimberly

Library Expansion Project

Orientation and thickness of building maximized for daylight access. Building, if built to code baseline, would use about twice as much energy. Benefit is due to a water source heat pump, and orientation of building and envelope. LEED Guidelines were considered in building the project, many categories were met in both the current and future requirements. One notable exception was access to public transportation. Geothermal has been considered, but may not be a good choice. Solar is also a consideration. Chris mentioned that it might be worth selecting a roof type that will be matched to the needs of solar, specifically metal or composite. Barb suggested the idea of having an education component to the environmental elements of the building should be a consideration and mentioned that grants might be a good way to fund materials. Kathy asked about stormwater drainage. Some water will be drained internally through the town water system. Additional water will be drained through gutters. Drainage into gardens, etc. has not been considered.

Updates

Landfill Solar Project - State level issues prevent us from putting out an RFP for our project. There are some state level decisions being made in December. To that end NRCM is hosting a rally to support changing of state regulations.

Reusable Bag Ordinance - The ordinance will be reviewed by council over this month and next. There are several differences between our ordinance and Portland's including changing the thickness of allowed reusable bags, which there are reports of abuse of in Portland.

Sierra Club Letter and Resolution - Kimberly has drafted a letter to the President, from the town, expressing the sentiment that President Obama should support a strong climate deal in Paris in December.

Home Energy Fair - We are considering ideas to make the energy fair more of a draw. Ideas included having information on the library expansion, having food vendors sell, including some element of the farmer;s market, having a thermal/ infrared camera, reusable bag sale/ giveaway.

Energy/ Sustainability Plan - Briefly looked at several energy plans from an assortment of towns. Brainstormed a list of high priority

- Develop a plan for municipal lighting
- Develop a list of alternatives to natural gas to be distributed along with natural gas
- Use library expansion project as an opportunity to present sustainable building to visitors
- Municipal building energy policy checklist
- Recycling of Baby Car Seats

- Municipal Solar at the Landfill
- Bike/ Ped Plan to expand sustainable commuting
- Bus stop at Library
- Analyze potential for solar power throughout town
- Encouraging residential LED
- Look at Energy plan, focus on biggest user - Wastewater > Converted to gas
- Cost effective transitions from one light type to another for residents
- Bicycle tax to pay for bike lanes
- Wind ordinance for Falmouth
- Toxins/ Flame retardants
- Report on putting wrong things into recycle bin
- Bang for your buck, energy savings outreach to residents
- Community Garden
- Composting