

Citizens' Energy Challenge Committee

Minutes of February 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm

Present: Members Nicholas Solitro, Richard Galipeau, and Denise Stetson; Juliana Berry, Town Planner.

A motion was made by R. Galipeau, seconded N. Solitro, to approve the minutes of November 29, 2017. All Ayes.

Berry summarized the approved uses of the grant funds: energy efficient improvements and education. The Town is not able to use funds for fuel assistance based on National Grid's definition, but she has asked them about projects larger in scope and whether those could count.

The Town has already done lighting improvements and is under a repayment contract with National Grid for those. Installing solar panels cannot be done until more is researched regarding the Town's contract with Direct Energy for providing electricity; it is not clear if the grant funds could be used for that purpose if all other efficiency actions have been taken.

Berry has talked to the person from RISE doing the energy audit for the Chariho school system, and he took a cursory look at Town Hall when he was there on school business. She suggested that we have him do an audit for the Town to see if he could find further actions the municipality could take.

Berry suggested a solar powered flashing light crosswalk so that students and others can cross 138 from the Richmond Elementary School to Town Hall during emergency drills or in other situations of public uses.

There was a question about if the allowed energy efficiency measures were for structures or could they be for vehicles. Richmond had a lighting audit completed in 2015 and recently implemented the findings so there is not a lot left to do without an in-depth look to see if anything else is left. Solitro suggested we find out what the criteria restrictions actually are, including getting ideas from other towns in the program.

The consensus of the group was that Berry schedule an audit, continue communication with NGRID regarding grant criteria questions, and find out about the Direct Energy contract.

Resident and potential Committee member Pierre Duval attended the meeting and asked about hydro power. Another idea was using high efficiency motors at the DPW garage.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled to March 28, 2018 due to conflicts.

On a motion by Galipeau, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 pm.

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Attested by Denise L. Stetson, Secretary