

ENERGY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes: March 6, 2023, 5:00 pm to 6:30pm
Town Hall, Mystic Valley Room

Voting attending: Karl Rexer, Colleen Soden, Justin Magee, Todd Kosterman, Lauren Herrmann, Roger McPeek, Allison Gaiko

Non-Voting attending: Laura Turenne, Susan McPhee, Ken Pruitt

Absent: Andrew Marron, Pete Lawson, LeeAnn McGahan, Fritzie Nace

1. Approve minutes from 1/30/23: Unanimously approved.
2. New Business: None
3. Town Hall Energy Usage (*Ms. Turenne*): Electricity use is down by 9% from the end of FY18 compared to FY22 and gas use is down 5% comparing those same years. Town Hall has the 5th highest EUI at 89.1 kBtu/sq ft. Since 2018, 2 destratification fans have been added to the auditorium and insulation was added above the auditorium and some exterior walls in the basement.
4. Updates from EFPBC:
 - a. New Lynch Building (*Ms. Soden and Mr. Kosterman*): The sustainability subcommittee has not met since EMC's previous meeting. There were originally 4 different options for solar. There is now a consensus on one of them. There will be translucent panels over the outdoor space for the older grades. Standard PV will be installed on the roof and on canopies. The total system size must be under 500 kW to avoid having battery storage (a requirement of the state's SMART program). Although batteries are large, they can have benefits. They can add resiliency, be used as an educational tool, and generate revenue (Eversource will pay for "shaving the peak"). A discussion ensued on the benefit of using CO2 sensors instead of oversizing the ventilation. Large, densely populated spaces will receive sensors automatically, but not areas such as hallways, classrooms, and offices.
 - b. Temperature Setpoint Policy (*Mr. Kosterman*): It was presented and accepted at the previous EFPBC meeting. There were no further comments. It will be a stand alone policy and will also be incorporated into the Owner's Project Requirements (OPR) for the Lynch school. This policy applies to all town buildings. The policy has different set points depending on the space as opposed to the previous policy which had singular set points for all spaces. Mr. Pruitt will take the policy to the Select Board along with the Sustainable Building Policy. School Committee will also have to approve the changes, and the policy will need to be published and disseminated. *Action Item: Mr. Kosterman to email Mr. Pruitt the final version.*
5. Updates from Sustainability Director (*Mr. Pruitt*):

- a. EV Chargers: The Dept. of Public Utilities (DPU) ruled in January that MassEVIP funding must be applied for in conjunction with an application for Make Ready funding. However, the DPU also ruled that if MassEVIP funding is awarded, then the Make Ready grant is decreased by that same amount. Eversource is in the process of appealing this requirement. DPU is aware of the issue.
 - b. Sustainable Building Policy: This policy is going before EFPBC this evening. The new Lynch building already meets all the standards. It is replacing the 2009 policy. The question was raised if it has been checked against the OPR to confirm that there are no incongruencies. Mr. Pruitt has read through both documents and did not find any.
 - c. Specialized Opt-In Stretch Energy Code: This will hopefully be a fall Town Meeting warrant article.
 - d. Invitation to Mark Sandeen to present on net zero building economics: He said “not at this time.”
6. Green Communities Grant:
- a. 2023: Parkhurst and WinRec Steam Traps (*Ms. McPhee*): The company Commonwealth has purchased Horizon. Once both proposals are sent with the new name, Ms. McGahan can start issuing Purchase Orders. Work will be performed during April break. The grant account has already been established. Winchester can apply again in the fall. *Action Item: Ms. McPhee will inquire with Commonwealth about steam trap access panels.* Commonwealth will be adding bar codes to the traps.
 - b. 2024: WinRec Electrification (*Ms. McPhee*): No new update.
7. Parkhurst Gymnasium ASHPs:
- a. Funding from Energy Revolving Fund (ERF) (*Ms. McGahan*): All the prices hold. Total project cost is \$126,821. The Eversource incentive is \$30,000. The balance is \$96,821. The Energy Revolving Fund will contribute \$65,000. Mr. Lawson will attend the next Capital Planning meeting to request the balance of \$31,821. Concurrently, Mr. Lawson will obtain the Town Manager’s signature to allow the use of ERF money for this project. Also, Mr. Lawson is planning an additional but separate HVAC project within Parkhurst. He plans to abandon in place the existing pneumatic system and add new controls for the entirety of the Parkhurst building. **Vote: EMC recommends that the Town Manager appropriates the \$65,000 from the ERF for the Parkhurst gymnasium ASHP project approved by DPW. Unanimously approved.** Work will be performed during the summer.
 - b. Status of project (*Mr. Lawson and Mr. Marron*): Please see above.
 - c. Delta in Cost (*Mr. Kosterman*): Please see above.
8. Schedule Next Meeting: April 10th at Town Hall, 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Laura Turenne