



Town of Rockingham
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RCC Minutes 04/21/2014

Attending: Mike Ghia, Rick Holloway, Guy Payne, Peter Bergstrom, Paul Wilson, Fred Bennett, Alan Fowler

Absent: Tom Hernon

Guests: Town Mgr Chip Stearns, Katrina Wilson of Integrated Solar, Ralph Meima of Green Lantern Financial, Alma Beals of Ascutney Audubon, Ann Bussler

Annual Meeting:

Election of Officers: All of the current officers ran unopposed and were re-elected. The officers are: Mike Ghia, Chair; Rick Holloway, Vice-Chair; Gary Fox, Secretary; Alan Fowler, Treasurer

Annual Planning: Tabled till May due to the full agenda for this meeting.

Municipal Solar Initiative: Guy introduced guests Katrina Wilson of Integrated Solar and Ralph Meima of Green Lantern Financial. The two presented on how they work together on putting together solar projects for municipalities and school districts. Investors (also known as developers) put up the money in exchange for tax credits, and the municipality or school receives between 10-12% savings on their electric costs for the life of the contract.

Green Lantern Financial (Developer) secures the money with a preference for local investors. Integrated Solar's goals are to use local investors, local installers, and local suppliers as much as possible. The town cannot take the 30% federal tax credit and the accelerated depreciation. These are the incentives for the private developers. The town can buyout the private developer (7, 10, 15, 20 years) after the tax credits and depreciation are used up. If the system is on town land, the developer is responsible for plowing for access, and clearing the snow off the panels, and maintenance.

Chip reported that the Town had done an RFP before his tenure and got 5 responses, but the economics then did not favor the Town. He foresaw a significant use of staff time to apply the credits against all of the small electric accounts that the Town and Villages have. The BF wastewater plant is the biggest electric user out of BF, SR, and Rockingham, and Chip thinks the plant would be the most logical account to tie the credit to.

At 20 years, it is the developer's responsibility to take the system down and remediate the site if the

developer does not want to keep the system.

No action was taken. Katrina was asked to send her power point presentation so that it could be put on the town website for public review. She said that she needed to get permission first. Guy and the Energy Committee will continue to research options and opportunities in coordination with Chip.

4. Green Up Day in Rockingham 20 minutes

Guest: Rockingham Green Up Day Coordinator Ed Dinnany—invited, but did not show up.

Chip - extra waste dumped last year from personal households cost the Town \$8000 in disposal.

SR Fire Station - 30 Yard dumpster - furniture and tires in the dumpsters -highway department ends up moving and sorting; feels that most is from front porches and not the rivers or the roads getting cleaned up. Same thing at Rt 103 town garage with 2 - 30 yard dumpsters

Rick suggests someone staffing the dumpsters to accept or turn away dumpsters; Chip is okay with this, but what about over night?

Organizational logistics were discussed for getting people out and getting them bags.

Chip will interface getting Ed Dinanney to work with RCC on next year's Green-up Day, and Chip suggests we Coordinate with Mike Hindes - regardless of what we do.

5. Emerald Ash Borer Grant 15 minute

Guest: Alma Beals Emerald Ash Borer- insect from Asia - invasive, attacking the white, green and black ash-- all states around us and quebec have it .

Seems that it mostly travels by fire wood, people take to camp grounds.

Vermont does not yet have the Emerald Ash Borer. Alma applied for grant with Kaitlyn Kusak from UVM - \$500 - Alma gave this to Ellen Howard; Timeline on grant is to complete by May 3; Ellen got an extension to September.

Seeking an Antioch Student to develop a plan for the town when an infestation occurs. Alma will also be organizing volunteers to inventory / survey the Ash Trees in our Town.

Purple ribbons on all the Ash trees; Alma is asking for a couple of volunteers to add to Jim, Polly Thompson and Alma; Mostly want to ribbon trees in the village, more than the woods; Ribbon raises public awareness of the Ash trees around and know they are vulnerable to the Emerald Ash Borer and educate folks about the trees and the importance of not taking firewood around from place to place to campground etc.

Mike volunteered to participate in the inventory time permitting—has a large ash in his yard. He will also post to the E-mail RCC list and FB .

6. Herrick's Cove and CT River:

Alma also discussed planning for the upcoming Wildlife Festival.

Then Alma discussed the Fishline removal project that was initiated by Kelly Stettner of BRAT (Black River Action Team). There is fishline being left that has entangle some waterbirds. Plan is to put receptacles at Hoyts landing and Alma will put at Herricks Cove; PVC with Flasher to keep hooks, sinkers and lines so animals and birds cannot get at it; signage and educational aspect will happen - plan is to have a specific day to put the receptacle up and find lines to clean-up? Roundy's Cove is third place that a receptacle will go.

Discussion drifted to better coordination on the Source-to-Sea clean-up on the Fall. Mike suggested that it be better if it was tied to the Rotary's Paddle Battle which has been the week before. Mike suggested that there might be a race team category where people earn points for the most trash that they collect while they are racing—make it fun and rewarding. Alma will bring this idea back to the Rotary of which she is a member.

7. Review of Training for Conservation Commission Members in Montpelier

Fred and Peter attended this meeting. Both felt that they learned a great deal, but that the challenge of the program was that people came to it with many different levels of experience so it was

hard for the presenters to meet the needs of the entire audience. Some of the questions that it raised for Peter and Fred were around how Rockingham is structured. Discussed: Rockingham does not a paid planner; Design; Development Review Board is a part of the Planning Board; We have a Town Plan with a Natural Resource Chapter, but we do not have a Natural Resource Inventory. This lead to a review of the RCC's past discussions of developing a Natural Resources inventory in the past including the how Dummerston went about there inventory. Peter car pooled with Windham Regional Commission (WRC) folks.

8. Update on Stream and Water Body Naming Project 10 minutes

Peter went to Selectboard and they approved the project -
`Reformer and Eagle Times ran stories on this; Susan Hammond gave name of "Petty Brook" in Bartonsville to Peter. Peter will be meeting with Jeff Nugent from WRC tomorrow to develop a stream map for use at Herricks Cove to begin outreach. Alan will provide assistance.

9. Review of Williams River Geomorphic Assessment Meeting 10 minutes

Tabled until the next meeting

10. Announcements of Events of to the RCC Mission-all. 5 minutes

11. Confirm Next Meeting (Monday, May 12th) -` Back to second meeting

Adjourn 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted
Gary Fox
Commission Member