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Sandwich Energy Committee

Minutes: Thursday, February 3, 2011

1. Welcome
2. Approval of November Minutes
    a. Minutes approved by unanimous vote
3. Ethics reminder
4. Comments on SEC Annual Town Report
    a. Group agrees that the report (prepared by Damien) looks good
5. Energy Benchmarking
    a. Damien has heard from Gill Newton and there is a student interested in helping out with the benchmarking project. Sarah will assist with this effort in terms of data entry, etc.
6. Meeting with Board of Selectmen, re: Green Communities Act
    a. Damien presented a few key points to the Selectmen regarding the GCA including:
        i. the potential grant money available
        ii. the consistencies with Chapter 10 and the Cape and Islands Green program
        iii. Representative Perry's 2008 visit to the committee and his expression of pride for the GCA
        iv. the Roadmap to Green Communitties report that was prepared by a consultant
        v. our neighboring town of Mashpee has achieved GCA designation
    b. GCA designation consists of 5 points:
        i. 1. Create as-of-right siting for renewable/alternative energy generating facilities (Planning Board)
        ii. 2. Create expedited application and permitting process for these facilities (Planning Board)
        iii. 3. Energy Benchmarking (SEC)
        iv. 4. Vehicle Fleet – purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use
        v. 5. Stretch Code adoption
    c. GCA applications are due in the Spring
    d. Questions/Comments from the Selectmen included:
        i. Payback for homeowner if using Stretch Code? (Paul Spiro sited that a 2700 square foot building would see a return of $800 a year, and a payoff period of approx. 10 years)
        ii. Lanelle pointed out that energy savings from making town buildings more efficient ultimately benefit the taxpayers
        iii. It was ultimately decided that because of the zoning re-write it may not be feasible to have the application ready for Spring
        iv. It was suggested that SEC focus on public outreach and education regarding both the GCA and the Stretch Code
        v. It was pointed out that the timing for this issue is good with all the local projects that center around energy (South Sandwich, marina, Wing School, etc)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Minutes prepared by Sarah Cote

Sarah Cote
3/3/11