

Lancaster Energy Commission Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2016

In attendance: EC Members Jay Moody, Don Atkinson, Ted Manning, Andrew Detsikas

Also in attendance: Staff Member Noreen Piazza

Staff Changes

With regret, Andrew Detsikas announced his resignation from the EC as he is no longer a resident of Lancaster. He submitted his resignation letter to the BOS this week. The great news is that Andrew has agreed to stay on as a volunteer with the Commission to continue in our Town's energy planning and preparation of the quarterly energy reports.

The EC thanked Andrew for his dedication and expertise to the Energy Commission and the Town of Lancaster. In particular, the development of the energy reports and his continued enhancements to their usefulness and quality have been an enormous gift to the Town and have given us important data by which to make decisions on energy conservation and efficiency direction for our Town's facilities. We wish him continued success at Prism Energy, and best wishes in his new home.

Noreen Piazza also announced that she will be stepping down as staff liaison to the EC, effective as of this meeting. She will continue to work with the Green Communities program and will assist the EC with filing of the annual report, as well as with any grant administration. A new staff liaison will be announced shortly.

Minutes

Noreen Piazza circulated the minutes from the 2/3 meeting. No changes or corrections were noted.

Review – Quarterly Energy Report

The EC reviewed the latest energy report from October 2015 through February 2016. Overall energy consumption has declined compared with the previous three-year average, including for fuels.

And on the cost side, with much lower oil and propane costs, as well as solar credits from our Town solar array being applied towards our electric bills, overall energy costs are way down.

The next report should be issued this summer.

New – 2016 Goals

The 2015 EC goals were circulated to start the discussion on the goals for 2016. The goals for 2015 were:

- 1) LED street lights – convert roundabout streetlights to LED, add additional LED streetlights per Police recommendation
- 2) Prescott Building HVAC system – work with project team to evaluate

- 3) Green Communities projects – re-prioritize project list, seek funding
- 4) Main Street gas line – continue to advocate

It was noted that three out of the four goals were met last year, with the Main Street gas line project still being outstanding.

The EC decided that they wanted to study our consumption of oil and propane in order to determine this year's goals, which may center on strategies to reduce this consumption. We will start this study at the next EC meeting on 6/1.

Update – Prescott Building HVAC, 2016 Green Communities Grant

Jay Moody has continued to represent the EC on the Prescott Building project team. The plans for the HVAC system have been finalized, with the latest change being that the secondary heating system will be fueled by propane instead of oil. He also reported that the heat exchanger was moved from the attic to the basement.

The building project should be going out to bid in the late spring timeframe with construction starting in the fall.

Noreen applied for the 2016 round of the Green Communities grant for the Prescott Building HVAC system. This grant is for \$250,000 to be applied towards the Prescott budget. The grant award announcement is expected in the June timeframe.

Update – Municipal Building Energy Projects

The EC re-reviewed the town building energy project list for 2016. The Town Hall projects were withdrawn as the building will be nearly vacated in late 2017 when the Prescott Building renovation is completed.

The following are updates on each of the remaining projects:

- 1) Police Station, Building Envelope Inspection – building will have new insulation installed on the north-facing exterior wall, discussion has continued on constructing an outside vestibule on the rear of the building
- 2) Community Center, Cabinet Heater for Stairwell (2) – TBD
- 3) Community Center, Envelope Sealing – weather stripping completed, steel plates to be installed over the cabin heater vents in the gym
- 4) Library, Heating Systems (2) – One unit was replaced in November, second unit to be replaced in Summer 2016

Update – LED Streetlights

Noreen reported that the (19) new LED streetlight fixtures, photocells and associated hardware have been delivered. Installation will be scheduled with SMLD and National Grid.

Update – Fuel Master Program

Noreen reported that the Town does not receive reports from the program on how much gasoline and diesel are being consumed per each fleet vehicle. Jay Moody will follow up on this with the Town Administrator.

Update – Main Street Gas Line Extension

Noreen had no update from National Grid. This discussion will be tabled until the 6/1 EC meeting.

Update – Mass Energy Insight Reporting

Noreen also reported that DOER has requested that Lancaster pull their energy consumption data from Mass Energy Insight, a state database of electrical, oil and propane consumption for each municipality. Historically, the EC has used our own reporting tool that was designed and maintained by Andrew Detsikas. Noreen will check with DOER to see if we can continue to use our own tool, along with MEI, as MEI does not account for gasoline/diesel fuels or solar energy generation from our Town array.

Next Meeting

The next regularly-scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 6:30 PM, at the Town Hall. An agenda will follow.