

Bedford Energy Task Force
April 15, 2009

In attendance: Angelo Colao, Abigail Hafer, Richard Jones, Carolyn Sarno, Kim Siebert, Jessica Watro.

Also in attendance: Walter St. Onge

The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Ms. Siebert will draft an article about the Task Force for the Bedford Byline and circulate it to the group for approval.

Ms. Seeley and Mr. Walsh will work with town webmaster Sherwood Ives to place information from the Task Force on <http://www.town.bedford.ma.us/>

Mr. Jones distributed several handouts: 1) Preliminary town building performance ratings from the state audit; 2) Going Green Conference information; 3) Green Communities Act/Recovery funding guidelines; 4) Information about solar scoreboards.

Town building performance: It was noted that the Bedford Library was the only town building whose performance was rated at "Above Average." The other 6 buildings earned "Below Average" scores.

Green Communities Act: One of the biggest questions Mr. Jones has is how the state will calculate Bedford's starting point for energy reduction. He has been benchmarking for several years now and is hard pressed to see where we could reduce an additional 20%. We don't know if any community has been successful yet in achieving a 20% reduction. Ms. Sarno and Ms. Watro will research.

Solar Scoreboard: The Bedford Athletic Association is interested in installing a scoreboard on one of the playing fields. Currently, there is a scoreboard that runs on batteries which is a hassle to plug, unplug, and store. Rather than run electrical lines for a more permanent solution, the concept of a solar scoreboard seems appealing. While there is often a trade-off between upfront costs and life cycle savings, there are several other questions this proposal engenders: How vandal-proof would a solar scoreboard be? Could some of the Solar Challenge money be used for this purchase? Could we integrate the solar scoreboard into our school Science curriculum?

Green Communities/Recovery funding: Cities and towns with populations of 35,000+ will get automatic grants, the smaller towns have to apply. The criteria and application guidelines have not yet been established for smaller towns but they should be forthcoming. The audit may help us determine where to focus our attention and the grant's proposal. The schools should be where we look first since these buildings use 68% of our overall municipal energy. Cooling and lighting upgrades are potential areas of

savings. Even Davis School—a relatively new building—has older T-8 lighting and we could reduce this to T-5s, thereby saving a substantial amount. More efficient lighting in the gyms would be another possibility. Motion sensors would be beneficial in all the buildings. NSTAR pays 80% of all lighting retrofits so it makes a lot of sense to do this soon, preferable over the summer months.

Items for consideration for the May 13th meeting include: The FLIR Camera presentation
The audit
ARRA Funding
DOER funding

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 in order to attend the Massachusetts Municipal Association Home Energy Savings program at the Bedford Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Siebert, Clerk