

## MINUTES

Green Communities Committee

July 5, 2022 – 3:30 – 4:25 pm

Present: Mike Canales, Mike Buffoni, Miles Moffatt, Buck Smith, Pat Flinn, Laura Dubester

Guest: Darrell Fennelly, Len Saxe

Minutes of 3/9 meeting: Approved – Pat F. moved, Mike B. seconded; approved unanimously (roll-call vote).

### Discussion about Electric Vehicle Charging Station

The Town is working with Guardian-Energy to move forward on this project. The first step is to get a better sense of the number and location of charging stations. Then, Guardian will come out here to meet with Michael and any Committee members to take the next steps.

Some of the Committee perspectives and questions included:

- The electric vehicle market is ‘exploding’ and we should be thinking of not only today’s demand but increased demand over the next 5 years; not to be ‘shy’ about the number.
- Ideally, we would create the infrastructure so we can start small (3-4+ stations) but expandable as needed
- The more we have, the more people can and will come to Stockbridge
- The demand is mostly from tourists
- Walking access to Town Center is essential
- Visibility is preferable
- Need to think about maintenance/plowing
- Consider fast and slow charging stations to meet different needs (possibly 2 fast and 2 slow); Longer charge times enable people to park and go to a restaurant or shop before returning; and fast chargers enable people to charge and get back on the road
- Customer friendly (easy to use with simple credit card) (EV-Go and ChargePoint and Tesla are most common)
- Ensure that chargers will accommodate all EV’s (Tesla’s come with attachment for other chargers)
- The East side by the Police Station is probably the best (most availability; close to power)
- Customer pays utility and small cost to cover maintenance; ability to have different rates (could be a “perc” for Town employees to have a lower rate)
- Easy to administer for Town
- Need to be dedicated for EV’s – keep in mind that they take away other parking;
- Ideally, more than one location – though may not be practical in short term
- Most of cost would be covered by grants (National Grid and DEP) – Guardian would calculate this eligibility and net-cost to town.

### Observations:

- Coop Market chargers are heavily used; Laura will check with Norman Rockwell Museum;
- Would probably be used most on weekends when fewer employees in Town
- Park Street is probably not a good location
- Requirement that they be networked is positive because people can see where there are available chargers
- Public interest in this (Glenn Sax attending meeting and sharing his experience and knowledge)
- Glenn asked about Town pursuit of hybrid or EV’s – and Michael C. would share after the meeting

Next steps:

- Invite Patrick Mahoney to site-visit
- See if anyone in state can guide the Town on how to determine number of chargers (rules of thumb)
- Find out more about ability to create infrastructure for expansion down the road – especially if National Grid can help with that cost as well. Look at costs for this option versus 4 or so to begin with.

**Streetlight Project Review – Updates from Michael C.**

- Purchase is moving along and won't be a problem
- Fixtures have arrived and being stored at DPW
- Installation will most likely be in August (currently being bid)
- Laura, Mike, Buck will draft a brief summary for distribution to Town (Stockbridge Updates/Town Website/other) so residents will understand that new streetlights are on their way – Pat will proof
- Mike will be the 'contact' person for questions, concerns complaints;

**Municipal Aggregation –**

The Committee has a 'working' understanding of "municipal aggregation" and its benefits. The next step is to interview the 3 leading "aggregators" and then select one. These are: Colonial Power (Berkshire Aggregation); GoodEnergy; Peregrine. Laura spoke with GoodEnergy and Peregrine and both are glad to meet with the Committee (30-45 minutes). Laura said that her understanding is that all are reputable. Even so, it is 'due diligence' to meet with all and have a good basis to make a recommendation to the Selectboard. Before proceeding there needs to be a vote by Town Meeting (next year). Thus, we don't have a 'pressing' deadline in the short-term.

Adjourned at 3:25 pm

Respectfully submitted, Laura Dubester, Chair