

## **Report on meeting with Selina Shaw, 20 August 2009**

Selina is not planning to purchase any energy equipment soon, since a room air conditioner was donated for Town Hall's data room. However, one of the parking lot lights needs to be replaced immediately, and the rest are corroded and should be replaced soon. This might be funded with Town Hall's existing budget or might need to go before 2010 Town Meeting as an article, depending on cost. Jay will ask our advisor Larry Grossman about the most cost-effective high-efficiency solutions and send input to Tom Garmon and Tom Argento (DPW and Electrical Inspector).

Eventually, Selina would like to renovate Town Hall, especially by replacing windows. Meanwhile, windows could be sealed with film, and/or insulating "honeycomb" shades could reduce air leakage. Jay will send info on window film to Selina. Although both options are relatively low cost, they would require substantial labor. We hope that the DOER audit/benchmarking program will help prioritize efficiency-improvement projects for Town Hall, including windows.

The town does not plan to purchase any vehicles except the building inspector/assessor's 1998 vehicle, which would not be funded for replacement until FY 2011. Possibly, a used police vehicle would serve the purpose rather than a new vehicle, but fuel economy is a concern, as well as onboard storage space.

Re the EnCom (formerly EcoPath) website, Dan Tappan will work with us on integrating it with the town website. Even though the Fire and Police Departments recently launched their own websites, ideally, ours should be part of the official town website. A Boxborough resident who recently moved here, Dave Schroeder, has volunteered to help Selina improve the town website.

We discussed what to do if LELWD decides not to opt in to the state's Renewable Energy Trust, thus disqualifying Boxborough from any Green Communities funding. We should find out what other towns served by municipal utilities are doing and perhaps ask LELWD to apply a surcharge that would fund comparable projects. Also, we might approach our state legislators to address the problem, possibly with an amendment to the law. The issue is that Green Communities is funded by proceeds from "Reggie" auctions (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative), not by Trust funds. Also, the "irrevocable" language in the opt-in contract is perceived as a show-stopper by some municipal utilities, including Concord, which already funds energy projects with its own surcharge.

We also discussed other criteria for qualifying as a Green Community. Some requirements we will go ahead with anyway, such as the energy audit/benchmarking program. Projects to reduce town building energy consumption might require creative financing if we are ineligible for state support. Also, training for our town building inspector should become available in November and will cover the optional "stretch" code and the state's most recent minimum energy code. We'll contact builders who traditionally work in Boxborough to let them know that they can attend the training at minimal cost (materials and meals). Becky will follow up on DOER code training.

We discussed publicity for our upcoming Home Energy Savings seminar on October 14. Selina suggested several outlets including the school's listserv and town's cable TV. She suggested we video-record the event for subsequent broadcast for those who could not attend. Becky will follow up.

### **Actions**

#### Jay

- Send Selina info on window film cost and installation
- Ask Larry Grossman about cost-effective high-efficiency parking lot lighting, then send input to Tom Garmon and Tom Argento

#### Becky

- Alert Selina and builders when energy code training becomes available
- Follow up on publicity for energy savings seminar and video-recording