



# Town of Brighton

MONROE COUNTY, NEW YORK

SUSTAINABILITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, SOC

2300 ELMWOOD AVE. \* ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14618 \* PHONE (585) 784-5250 \* FAX (585) 784-5368

## ***Sustainability Oversight Committee January 7, 2015***

### ***Meeting Minutes***

#### **Attendance:**

Ron Wexler, Rochelle Bell, Eric Williams, Shubhangi Gandhi, Erinn Ryen, Margy Peet (Color Brighton Green), Christopher Werner, Mike Guyon, Evert Garcia, Schuyler Matteson

#### **Minutes:**

The December 3, 2014 meeting minutes were approved without revision.

#### **Open Forum:**

- Schuyler Matteson, Energy Efficiency Project Manager at Wildan Energy Solutions, a contractor to NYSERDA, gave a brief overview of the Energy Efficiency Distribution Program (EEPS) currently offered and managed by NYSERDA. The goal of the program is to seek, plan and distribute funds for projects involved with making the grid more efficient.
  - Schuyler mentioned that it is possible that in the future, NYSERDA will no longer manage incentive programs and focus more on energy efficiency R&D and legislation. The management of the incentive programs would then be left for the utility companies such as RG&E. However, a final decision in this matter has not been made yet.
- Metal Halides to LED Pathways
  - RG&E is proposing to upgrade the incandescent bulb fixtures currently found in most of the existing Harp Style street lights throughout the Lighting Special Districts to Metal Halide fixtures. The Metal Halides would reduce the power consumption at each fixture to 92 watts versus the 166 watts of the old incandescent fixtures. Although this is welcomed news, it would be more beneficial to the Town if RG&E replaced the current incandescent light fixtures with LED fixtures, instead of the currently proposed Metal Halides, as the reduction in energy consumption would be much greater.
  - Schuyler reviewed the current Customer Agreement as established by RG&E and the PSC during the meeting. The agreement states that the “customers can request any technology that is available.” However, Metal Halide fixtures have been recently added to RG&E’s tariff list, LED’s have not, therefore LED’s are not being considered for this project as RG&E would not have a mechanism to bill for them.
  - The SOC determined that further conversation was warranted in order to determine if there was any way of using LED fixtures, as opposed to Metal Halides currently proposed by RG&E in the Harp Style street light renovation project. A subset of the SOC will meet relatively soon in order to



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discuss this matter. Schuyler anticipates that RG&E will not commence construction until March, 2015. As a general rule of thumb, RG&E does not perform any construction from December through March.

- Mike/Evert will email Tom Lowe's Residential Street Lighting Study over to Schuyler so that he may get familiar with the original scope of the project.

### Announcements:

#### Old Business

- SOC University of Rochester Intern Update
  - An SOC intern has been selected. Her name is Mary Willis and she should be able to start working on the 2015 GHG Inventory project relatively soon. Erinn will be available to guide Mary as she gets started with the project.
  - Mike has created a list of facilities that can be used to establish an organizational structure for the 2015 GHG Inventory. Some discussion will occur amongst Town Staff in order to determine the best way to organize the Town facilities for the 2015 GHG Inventory.
- Potential RIT Capstone Project
  - Subsequent to Mary's 2015 GHG Inventory findings, the SOC may be interested in pursuing an RIT capstone project that would explore a Community-Wide greenhouse gas inventory.
  - Additionally, the subject matter of the RIT Capstone Project would not have to be limited to greenhouse gas inventories. All items that are included in the Climate Smart Community Pledge could be eligible for a capstone project. Eric will send out "feeler" emails to students in order to determine if there is any interest from the student body to perform a sustainability related capstone project. The students would be welcomed to include their own ideas.
  - Mike will send Eric a list of past SOC goals so that Eric may include them as possible ideas for a Capstone Project in his outreach to students.
- Street Lighting Tariff
  - The tariff for the proposed Metal Halide fixtures would remain the same as the current tariff for the incandescent bulb fixtures. Some savings would occur on the monthly charges attributed to the reduction in power consumption of the new Metal Halide fixtures.
  - A brief discussion on the breakdown of RG&E's street lighting charges occurred. It was discussed that RG&E does not bill on actual metered use for the street lights and instead charges based on estimated "burning hours."



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- A more thorough examination of the RG&E special lighting district charges will occur in the subsequent meeting with Schuyler.
- Climate Smart Communities
  - Focus Sub-Groups- The SOC reviewed the “straw-man” chart that was put together during the December SOC meeting. It was discussed that the members should start working on their respective bullet items.
  - The SOC thought that it would be a good idea to have a main contact person for each sub-group.
    - Rochelle was appointed as the contact for Pledge Item Number 6: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the use of climate-smart land-use tools.
    - Eric will be the contact for Pledge Item Number 3: Decrease Community Energy Use, Municipal Facilities and Operations.
    - The remaining pledge items will be assigned a contact person during the next SOC meeting.
- Alternative Energy Code Amendments
  - The Solar Energy Ordinance was re-introduced to the Public Works Committee on January 6, 2015. The Public Works Committee’s consensus was in support of a Solar Energy Ordinance that would allow rooftop installations of solar panels. Ground and Wall units would be excluded from the ordinance language. At this time, Ramsey Boehner will revise the current ordinance to support this.
- Town Staff Attendance at SOC Meetings
  - The SOC is interested in having various members of the Town of Brighton staff attend the monthly SOC meetings so that the SOC may get a better understanding of Town Operations and how they relate to sustainability within the Town of Brighton.
  - The SOC would also be interested in having solar industry representatives come and speak about the challenges of installing solar energy products in communities throughout the area.
- Use of Brine for Snow and Ice Control
  - The question regarding the use of Brine for snow and ice control in the Town of Brighton was re-visited. The Town of Brighton does not use Salt Brine to treat its roadways. The NYSDOT does use brine as an anti-icing/deicing agent on State highways in Monroe County. The state highways include



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routes 104, I-390, I-490, and I-590 in Monroe County. The brine is natural salt brine originating from US Gypsum natural gas wells in Genesee and Wyoming Counties. The NYSDEC has reviewed the use of this brine and issued a Beneficial Use Determination.

- 2015 SOC Goals
  - The SOC would like to come up with a list of attainable goals for 2015. This matter will be discussed in more detail during the next SOC meeting.
- Development Updates
  - Updates for development projects throughout the Town of Brighton were briefly discussed. There were no significant questions to the updates.

### **New Business**

### **Adjournment**

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be February 4, 2015 at 7:00 PM.