



Committee: Planning Board
Date: February 27, 2019.
Time: 7:00 pm.
Location: Georgetown Town Hall, 3rd floor conference room.

Members present: Rob Hoover, Harry LaCortiglia, Bob Watts, Joanne Laut, Tillie Evangelista.
Staff present: John Cashell, Town Planner.
Minutes transcribed by A. Thibault. Note: Video recordings of all Georgetown Planning Board meetings may be found at www.georgetownma.gov and by choosing the Community TV option.
The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 by R. Hoover.

Minutes:

B. Watts: Motion to approve the draft meeting minutes for February 13, 2019.
H. LaCortiglia: Second.
Motion carries 5-0; unanimous.

Correspondence:

H. LaCortiglia: Motion to consider the correspondence as read.
B. Watts: Second.
Motion carries 5-0; unanimous.

Green Communities Presentation:

Neil Duffy, Northeast Regional Coordinator MA Dept. of Energy Resources.
{Presentation link on the Green Communities Designation and Grant Program may be found at www.georgetownma.gov and by choosing "Planning Board" under the "Boards and Commissions" heading on the top of the Georgetown homepage. From the Planning Board homepage, the presentation link is under News and Announcements on the top right-hand side}

Neil Duffy: Our division serves all MA municipalities. The designation and grant program are our flagship program, but we do have other programs as well. We want you to think of us as the clean energy hub, and as a resource for Georgetown. Whether or not you are a designated Green Community. We provide funding and technical assistance for clean energy and energy efficiency projects. Some of the programs that we have are the Street Light Grant Program, Meta Grants (Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grants) used largely toward funding studies; for example, solar projects. There is also an energy tracking and analysis tool- Mass Energy Insight.

There are 240 Designated Green Communities in MA. We expect to have 20-30 additional communities added in 2019.

If you are a municipal light plant community, as Georgetown is, as long as you have one customer that is not using municipal light, the community will not be required to pay the renewable energy charge.

That is 1/20 of a cent per kilowatt hour. That charge is approximately thirty cents per months for a typical resident. But, if you have any investor owned utility in your town, then you will not be charged. And, we know that Georgetown does have one of those investor owned utility customers.

We provide up to \$20 million dollars in grants and loans to town, per year. Mostly it is upgrading your building infrastructure. If the project saves energy, then it usually qualifies. As a result of the program, there is significant projected savings in greenhouse gas reductions. The projected savings per community is

Amesbury and Newburyport have each received nearly a million dollars. If Georgetown were to be become a green community, that initial designation grant for Georgetown would be \$140,000. Additional grants are offered annually, and capped at \$250,000.

J. Cashell: It's a matter of moving forward quickly enough. This could possibly be done for this Annual Town Meeting. Becoming a Green Community is not going to increase electric bills.

N. Duffy: First step is to become designated. There is some flexibility on how you spend the designation grant money. Putting together an energy reduction plan is smart and important.

R. Hoover: How difficult is it to target the grants toward projects, rather than buildings?

N. Duffy: In terms of the competitive grants we haven't historically funded renewable projects. Almost the sole criteria we are looking for is "what are the energy savings". Energy efficiency is the main focus. There are certain limitations to the program. We try to do the best we can within the limitations. I would suggest looking into the Meta grants. You could do a feasibility study for a community shared solar for example.

H. LaCortiglia: I move to take the matter of Georgetown becoming a state designated Green Community under advisement, and pending further review, determine if Georgetown should take the steps necessary to become a state designated Green Community.

B. Watts: Second.

Motion carries 5-0; unanimous.

N. Duffy: If you are interested in climate change, another program similar to Green Communities is MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness). It's similar where you become designated as an MVP community. The first round of grants is planning grants. Working with MVPC, all the stakeholders in town like police, fire etc. do workshops to identify vulnerabilities and put together a climate action plan. Once you have the climate action plan, and once you are designated as an MVP community then you are eligible for the action grants. Those grants are up to \$400,000 with a 25% match.

R. Hoover: How do I follow up on that?

N. Duffy: I will send John that information. It is a huge focus of this administration.

Street Acceptance:

J. Cashell: There are four streets that initially Pete Durkee requested that the Board of Selectmen take up for this Annual Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen asked the Planning Board to report on the status of these four streets that Pete would like listed as publicly accepted ways.

{Planning Board and Town Planner discuss issues, timing and next steps.}

J. Cashell: The only street that is ready to recommend for public acceptance is Chaplin Hills Road. Longview, Maureen and Martel are not going to meet this year's deadline to get onto the spring Town Meeting.

H. LaCortiglia: Motion to reply to the Board of Selectmen and recommend to accept as a public way Chaplin Hills Road.

B. Watts: Second.

Motion carries 5-0; unanimous.

H. LaCortiglia: Motion to reply to the request of the BOS and refrain from recommending Longview and Maureen Lane and Martel Way until such time as outstanding issues can be corrected.

No second?

Motion carries 5-0; unanimous.

Planning Office:

1. Palmer Lane:

H. La Motion to extend the discussion for Palmer Lane of Affordable Housing payment and surety reduction request to March 13, 2019.

J. Laut: Second.

Motion carries 5-0; unanimous.

2. Erosion and Stormwater Control Regulations.

J. Cashell: These draft regulations will probably be winding up tomorrow night. All we need to do in order to adopt them is a Planning Board Public Hearing.

3. Zoning Amendments:

J. Cashell: Everything must be completed by April 1, 2019 if we want any zoning amendments considered at Town Meeting.

{Planning Board and Town Planner discuss draft zoning amendments for Town Meeting.}

136 H. LaCortiglia: Motion to authorize the Town Planner to notice in the newspaper of general
137 circulation three public hearings. The first of which is for the amendment for building and
138 building height to change the definitions under Ch. 165-7. The second would be for a regulatory
139 change for adoptions of regulations under Ch. 57 for Erosion and Stormwater Control, and the
140 third public hearing would be to adopt the stretch code for the Green Communities in the Town
141 of Georgetown.

142 B. Watts: Second.

143 Motion carries 5-0; unanimous.

144
145
146 **Member or Public Concern:**

147
148 H. LaCortiglia: Motion to adjourn.

149 J. Laut: Second.

150 Motion carries 5-0; unanimous.

151
152
153
154 The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.