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AMESBURY

Amesbury Energy, Environment, and Sustainability (aka AEESC) Committee
Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Municipal Development Center
39 South Hunt Road
Amesbury, MA 01913
5:00 PM

Call to Order at 5:06 by Chairperson Bill Messner.

Attendance: Bill Messner – Chair, Nancy Maynes – Vice-Chair, Michael Hogg – City Council member 1 of 2, Pam Gilday – City Council member 2 of 2, Barbara Lorenc, and Anthony Rinaldi. Dave (DJ) Johnson – City Energy Manager. Citizen Attendee: Liz McConnell. Absent: Mike Browne.

Minutes for Approval: February 11, March 3, March 17. Motion to approve the 3 sets of minutes by Michael, 2nd by Nancy - all in favor, unanimous. Bill to request their posting on the City website.

Public Comment: Liz McConnell introduced herself and expressed interested in joining the committee to fill one of the two vacant Resident positions. She met with Bill Messner on this matter and has submitted her application to the Mayor.

Communications:

- School Committee member Greg Noyes has expressed interest in being the SC member to the Energy Committee and is expected to be appointed by the Mayor in time for the next City Council meeting. He could not attend tonight because of a double-booking.
- Pam and Michael share information about their meeting last week with the Mayor regarding her plans for Trash/Recycling for FY27 and FY28.
- DJ shares information about activities for Earth Hour on March 28 and Earth Day on April 27 as well as activities other groups in town have for Earth Day 2026.
- Pam and Michael report that City Council approved new rules disbanding three subcommittees to form a single subcommittee of the whole that will meet on the third Tuesday of every month. This means the Solid Waste task force should meet on a night other than Tuesdays if Pam and Michael are to attend.

Matters Discussed:

- Energy management, utility billing, and solid waste issues.
- Challenges with utility account management and billing delays.
- Updates on energy projects including HVAC upgrades and solar credits.
- Concerns about solid waste pickup plans for FY27, FY28 and forward.
- Earth Day cleanup planned for April 26 at Heritage Park with downtown focus, coordinated by OCED and Lions Club.
- DJ has submitted a request for 15-minute interval data from National Grid for our largest utility meters via NG's Energy Profile Online system. Estimated annual cost $1603 to be paid via AOBC balances.
- Community power aggregation letters sent; about 10% account churn noted; program prioritizes low-risk savings.
- EVSE revenue up but fees and taxes reduce net income; maintenance costs may exceed budget. Still looking for community sponsors.
- Energy projects include HVAC upgrades at fire station, citywide LED lighting retrofit with rebates expiring in October, and potential for capital improvements.
- Technical assistance grant offers 80 hours for solid waste program support, including bin counts.
- Challenges with enforcement and compliance in downtown business district food waste management and trash/recycling pickups.
- Fall Green Communities grant will potentially be for AHS partial control upgrade.
- Issues with solar systems: inverter faults at AHS and 5 Market Square; awaiting funding for repairs.
- Microfab EPA study progressing; city preparing for building demolition and waste sorting at 128 Kimble Road.
- DJ has taken over responsibility (from a 3rd party vendor) for annual Large Building Energy Reporting (LBER) report – DJ attended LBER for public entities process overview on March 3.
- DJ attended the DOER 225 CMR 29 Draft Guidelines info session.
- DJ and others attended 2nd MEVA project team mtg regarding electric ferry infrastructure needs at Washington Landing site.
- DJ is working to update the City's Sustainable Purchasing Policy to comply with the updated requirements from MA DEP – due June 1.
- Project Lumos involves extensive building tours and vendor bids for energy upgrades. DJ coordinated multiple site visits with DPW, Police, Fire, and School buildings for pre-bid walkthroughs.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Pam, 2nd by Nancy – all in favor, unanimous. Meeting stands adjourned at 7:10 PM.