

## Energy Committee Minutes for November 10, 2023 Meeting

1) Welcome W. Gifford, A. Prindle, B. Grove, P. Paul, D. Beatie, S. Furman, L. Gifford, G. Alexander, Lindsay Eidson, B. Foley attended.

2) Approval of Minutes for September 12, 2023 meeting: approved with typographic changes

3) Reports:

a) Thermostat Project - We discussed follow up work needed to conduct the heating and cooling survey and analyze the data. Scott Murray reported on his investigation into the shortcomings of the older resistance heat thermostats and the discovery of a programmable thermostat that could replace them for a nominal purchase price (\$38). It appears that we have a commitment from Maintenance to install these newer programmable thermostats if residents wish to purchase them. We need more understanding of why people are setting their baseboard thermostats so high when they have furnace thermostats. Also, we need to understand what their overall issues are so we can decide on education focus.

b) Solar arrays - Last Wednesday the installer, MVE, came on site and trained maintenance and staff near unit # 447. (see report). MVE reviewed the equipment including solar panels and their care, inverters and power meters. Boxes are keyed for security. Lindsay Eidson expects to have online access for each array and will be able to monitor systems for any error messages.

4) Topics of interest

a) mini split heat pumps - The Committee wants to consider what efficiencies could be gained by installing mini-split heat pumps in the smaller units. Roy Manno seems willing to consider these and asked us to investigate potential vendors of mini splits. We will collect this information by the next meeting. Some equipment is advertised to work at ambient temperatures as low as -13 F. It was reiterated that reducing energy use by promoting and improving the efficiencies of equipment currently in use in our community as well as developing on site solar generation are the best goals for us to be promoting.

b) induction stove tops

c) cold water detergents - We need to convince residents that the strips are effective and to do so, we need to ask how many are satisfied with how well they clean. We will do this by the next meeting.

d) heat pump water heaters

e) waste stream

5) Climate Resilience Working Group: no report

6) SSAFE

a) PA Legislative Advocacy - The Governor is pushing the removal of REGGI. A membership meeting will occur on 11/18. the meeting location will be clarified.

7) Energy Display: How feasible will it be to present the performance of the solar PV systems at Wollman and Mott? Scott Murray passed around a Raspberry Pi controller that could replace the current Energy Display system. The controller has capabilities to access info on the energy output from the solar production (e.g., power/year, savings/year or other data from the MVE website. SSAFE notices will be posted to the display. There will be an equipment upgrade that updates the system and increase its flexibility.

8) Facilities Report: the intern collecting/inventorying equipment at all residences in Crosslands and Kendal has been urged to push his efforts so that he completes his work by end of year.

9) 4 Campus recycling: On 11/27, a meeting at Kendal at 7:15 will take place to present how we can decrease plastics on campus. The speaker is a terrific resource person and excellent speaker.

10) Kendal at Longwood:

a) KAL will be assessing baseboard heating capacity for use when we have thermostat control discussions with Bryant. One outcome will be to collect data on types of thermostat equipment present in a group of smaller apartments that would enable comparisons between equipment at smaller size apartments at Kendal and Crosslands.

b) There is a project underway looking at the difference of the effects of upgrades on energy consumption. Two cottages of similar size will be monitored for one year. One cottage will be turned over with “traditional” updates that have been used for many years while the other cottage will be updated with better energy upgrades.

11) Other business:

a) Ben James’ shared the Energy committee’s concern that KCC needs to conduct a formal energy audit at the September Crosslands Resident Association meeting. When Ben asked for support from the CRA Board, it was granted. The Kendal Energy Committee is considering whether it will make a similar request to the KRA Board. The KRA Energy Comm. proposal has two elements: 1) sustainability issues linked to an energy audit and 2) whether to perform an energy audit. The Crosslands Energy Committee learned that the scope of the current audit to be performed soon by the administration will only document energy use at the community centers at Kendal and Crosslands. Current plans do not address energy use at apartments or independent residences. We are aware that the cost of an audit performed at Kendal at Hanover cost ~\$35,000.

11) Closing and Adjourn