

## **Enfield Energy Committee Meeting Minutes**

*"To identify energy savings for the Town and energy savings opportunities for the community".*

Our current goal is to reduce the Town's total energy consumption by 25% (relative to the 2007 baseline data) by the end of the 2011 calendar year.

**Meeting Date: Tuesday, Jan 24, 2012 Time: 5:15 PM**

**Location: Whitney Hall, Enfield, NH**

### **I Call to order**

Attended by: Charlie DePuy, Richard Lammert, Kim Quirk, Alisa Bonnette, Larry Battis, Wendell Smith

### **II Approval of minutes**

- Meeting Minutes, [Nov 22, 2011](#) (approved)

### **III Public Comment**

\*Jeff and Suzanne Hinman came to speak about the lights being selected for the new Shaker Bridge. Suzanne (who is on the Heritage commission) said she would like to make sure new lights meet our dark sky ordinance. Extra light may contribute to algae bloom and disrupt both animal and human natural cycles. Jeff is concerned with any additional light reflecting on the lake, snow and ice and the danger it poses both when it is clear (and reflecting for long distances) as well as when there is fog and the light is dispersed in every direction. There are more and more lights shining on the lake, which isn't healthy and is also not pleasant to look at. He recommends a more yellow color to help reduce long distance visibility as well.

\*Joe Doran joined the meeting as a visitor. He is an Enfield resident living off-grid with solar electric and solar hot water systems.

### **IV Old Business**

- Update on municipal energy use (Charlie -- save this for next month's meeting)
- Update on Shaker Bridge lights - Efficiency and dark sky compliance:

After discussion with Jeff and Suzanne, the energy committee agreed to the following recommendations for the new lights:

- 1) Low energy, efficient
- 2) NH Dark Sky Compliant as well as Enfield lighting ordinance
- 3) Should not reflect off the water
- 4) Not "bright" white (color <5000K)
- 5) No lights under the bridge
- 6) Minimize horizontal lighting - light only the surfaces required

We will send these recommendations to the Heritage Commission and, once we are in agreement, to the Selectboard.

We believe it will be necessary to find the right lights and posts to meet these recommendations, so the Energy Committee is going to do some research work as well (input from other committees or individuals is much appreciated).

Actions:

- \* Kim to send out energy committees recommendations to heritage and then, when in agreement to the selectboard.
- \* Wendell will look into current Main St lights to see if the vendor has a dark sky compliant cap.
- \* Alisa will update us as to the budgeting for lights (how much or when is it budgeted).
- \* Everyone should do some research on products and costs for lights that will meet our recommendations.

- Update on Rt 4 sewer project

Not sure there is any real energy committee action here, but if this passes at town meeting the digging will start before the summer. It is expected to be completed before winter.

- Summary of Municipal Network meeting on Town planning for Climate Change

Charlie and Kim attended a talk by Cameron Wake, prof at UNH, given to municipal planners, zoning and energy people in NH and VT -- discussing how towns should be preparing for unusual weather (like Irene) happening on a more frequent basis. We should be thinking that 100yr floods are probably going to occur more than once in our lifetime and we need to be ready for frequent ice storms, droughts, floods, hurricanes, etc.

As the Energy Committee we aren't very involved in zoning and planning (helping people move away from flood zones, for instance), but we can focus on education and disaster recovery where it involves energy loss -- electrical or inability to get oil or propane in a timely manner -- for our municipal buildings.

Action:

\* Richard will look into Enfield flood zone maps and see what municipal buildings might be affected by a flooding event.

- Energy Committee's 2012 Project -- something that will really make a difference:

Transportation/Vehicles:

Charlie pointed out that Enfield's cost for town vehicles (plows, trucks, road crew, police department, fire, rescue) is quite a bit higher, as a percentage wise of total energy used, than the rest of the state. Perhaps we aren't that unusual if we look at only towns about our size with the large area that we have.

Maybe we can come up with some ideas for decreasing use, sharing with neighboring towns (especially on the other side of methodist hill), make changes to protocols or how much and often vehicles are used (plowing, sanding, responding to calls).

Streetlights:

Wendell pointed out that we didn't get a good conclusion from the streetlights project. Many other towns have made better progress turning them off. Let's not drop this one.

Projects other towns are working on: biomass heating systems, solar on town buildings, solar recyclers, hydro turbines to generate local electricity, methane recycling, geo-thermal heating.

Town Generated Electricity:

We have the Mascoma river as well as a couple of reservoirs and dams (Smith's Pond and the Canaan reservoir) -- how can use these to generate some electricity for town use?

Can we figure out how to do a public/private sector kwango project, perhaps involving Tim Taylor's Baltic Mill?

Action:

\* Everyone: Try to figure out what would be the next step to take a "big" idea to the next level. How about each committee member pick an idea and do some research?

## **V New Business**

- Events:
  - Local Energy Solutions Conference, 3/31/12, Concord
  - Button Up NH - do we want to get involved?

## **VI Other Items**

- Next meeting, Tues,

### **List of Accomplishments:**

- Tracking Enfield buildings energy usage, electrical, fossil fuels, vehicles
- Google [map of streetlights](#)
- No Idling signs around town
- MEAP grant for Energy analysis and audit of Whitney Hall
  - level 1 energy audit report complete, 3/15/11
- Energy Policy audit for Enfield
- ARRA grant (\$19,000) for Veteran's park and Main St lighting upgrades
  - Installed and saving \$1800/year, 10.5 tons of CO2
- Solar Roller float for 250th anniversary
- Provided [Energy Objectives](#) to the Land Use Planning and Energy Chapter for Enfield

## **VII Adjournment**

### **Suggestions for Energy Committee 2012 Project:**

- Changing out the streetlights (a town in Long Island is using 1/3 town funds, and 2/3 grant money to change all their lights to LED)
- Enfield generate its own electricity
- Can the reservoirs/dams be tied into the Energy Chapter / Land Use plan?
- Can the town create electrical charging stations to encourage electric vehicles
- Discussion from Jan 2012 meeting:

#### Transportation/Vehicles:

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