

Enfield Energy Committee Minutes
March 23, 2010 APPROVED

Mission Statement: To identify energy savings for the town and energy savings opportunities for the community

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

Date/time: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 5:15 PM

Location: Whitney Hall Conference Room 23 Main Street, Enfield New Hampshire

Members present: Kim Quirk, Steve Goldsmith, Carol Lammert, Rich Lammert, Bo Petersson, Larry Battis, Wendell Smith, and Mike Mooney and Steve Schneider as administrative staff representative

Members absent: Alisa Bonnette and Charlie DePuy (on leave)

Citizen: Gary Hubbard

Guests: Robert Walker of the Sustainable Energy Resource Group (SERG) and Laura Chestnut, Municipal Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) Energy Program Assistant

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes of February 23, 2010 were tabled awaiting availability of the final draft

III. Public Comment

None were offered at this time. Mr. Hubbard's contributions are noted within the body of the minutes.

IV. Old Business

- Visit with Laura Chestnut and Robert Walker to discuss the MEAP energy and policy audits

Laura commented that the community profile by the Energy Committee (Charlie DePuy) is a good example of continuous documentation of energy usage by the town. Energy usage in buildings and facilities have been tracked using the EPA Portfolio Manager tool.

The documentation on street lights is adequate. Regarding cost of electricity data is available through a

National Grid web site: Data is accessible by a code number, which is the town's tax ID. Electrical costs for lighting needs to be presented in the report as three categories street lights, bridge lights and Veteran's Memorial Park lights (the latter two are metered separately). Laura provided a table indicating areas that are adequate and those areas to be addressed according to the Small Town Carbon Calculator (STOCC) format.

Data on vehicular fuel usage needs to be developed. In discussion it was noted that vehicular fuel usage may be skewed for particular pieces of equipment such as trucks that are left idling at work sites or when used during snow plowing or the back hoe for which mileage calculations would be inappropriate. Cost of fuel per vehicle and mileage may not be recorded though fuel costs per department are noted. Collection of the data available may identify a need for more in-depth record keeping that may prove insightful in future assessments. An example given was supportive evidence of an inefficient vehicle that should be replaced.

Regarding acquisition of fuel Steve Schneider estimated that 95% of the fuel for town vehicles is obtained at the DPW, expect when it is more appropriate for fuel to be purchased elsewhere (as when a police cruiser is at a great distance from the DPW). Kim will confer with Wendy. Kim will also work with Laura in writing the report working toward the energy audit. Enfield is one of 6 towns in New Hampshire that have been selected for the MEAP energy audit.

Steve Goldsmith will compose the introductory paragraphs for the report. Laura provided an example from a New Hampshire municipality.

The report is to be presented to the Select board. A tentative date is April 19, 2010. This will have to be confirmed with Alisa.

In June the data will be reviewed by the SDES group. There was speculation on the type of audit the town will be offered. There are two types. A decision grade audit is a basic energy performance audit, identifying areas of energy loss and improvement. An investment grade audit is the decision grade plus retrofit cost estimates and pay back information. Bob thought it would not be the latter.

Committee members speculated on which building would best qualify for an investment grade audit. The constancy (without seasonal variations) of electrical use at the Police Department remains as a concern. Gary Hubbard offered to review the electric bills for that building. Study of the information contained in subcategories could provide insight into the problem. He will look those over with Kim.

Bob Walker said that Enfield was selected for an Energy Policy Audit. It is speculated that Enfield will go forward with this endeavor through the Planning board in conjunction with Jeffrey H. Taylor and Associates. Wendell made a motion in support of the town's Planning Commission moving forward with the MEAP policy audit. The Motion was seconded by Rich. The motion was passed unanimously. Steve Schneider will confer with Jim Taylor, Director of Community Development.

In discussion on the town's overall energy plan it was found that the town does not have an energy chapter in the town plan. (An energy plan is not a part of the Master plan for the state of New Hampshire.) Bob will e-mail a copy of Thetford, Vermont's Energy Plan to serve as an example. Steve Goldsmith voiced that the committee may wish to revisit this concept in the future.

- Alternative Electrical energy sources

Wendell moved that the Energy Committee explore alternative electrical energy sources. The motion was seconded by Bo. It passed unanimously. Wendell and Larry will look into costs.

- New Hampshire Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant award for downtown outdoor lighting

Writing of the contract with TRC will be done. Steve Schneider commented that we could expect auditing to be a part of the grant.

Steve Schneider stated that he will be able to sign the contract. Rich

questioned if it is possible to set aside the savings to be used in future energy projects as an "Energy Fund". Steve was not sure that could be arranged. It was noted that money would have been budgeted for the first year and that the savings could be set aside. To document actual savings we need actual data for the base line. One electric bill would provide 12 months' data. Four separate meters are involved in our electric billing. Kim will look at the data. Steve Goldsmith questioned compliance with no up-lighting. Gary said that he will provide data. Wendell inquired if the bridge lighting to be converted to off grid power such as alternative power - solar with batteries. Gary Hubbard said that when the contract is approved work could be scheduled relatively quickly. The need for record keeping according to the Davis - Bacon guidelines will be done. It is expected the work will progress relatively quickly. Gary will take before and after pictures to document the change. It is speculated that the change in electrical use will be noticeable.

- Town Meeting review

Carol voiced her assessment that it was considerable work with limited benefit. Bo agreed. The displays included an array of both indoor and outdoor LED's, a grand map of the town showing the many streetlights, the no idling signs to be posted and the work of the Energy Committee work to date. There were about 130 citizens present at town meeting. It was noted that the light board was presented last year and it was suggested that the committee do something different new next year. Perhaps pictures showing the improvement in decorative lighting and the cost savings could be presented.

Comments offered by citizens were presented (Examples are the need for no idling by a UPS driver, the Whitney Hall flag pole light being on 24/7 and not illuminating the flag in front of Whitney Hall).

- Request for budget funding for the Energy Committee

No money was budgeted.

- Earth Hour 2010 Saturday March 27, 8:30 - 9:30 PM

It was suggested that Carol write to the Forum of Valley News and post a notice on the Enfield Listserv.

- 40th Anniversary of Earth Day April 22, 2010

The committee discussed posting of the 6 idling awareness No Idling signs acquired from the New Hampshire DES at no cost. Discussion on where to

place signs followed. Town properties include the transfer station, Huse Park, Town Hall and Shaker Recreation Field. Other properties include the School and the Bank. Steve Goldsmith will speak with the school administration and Bo will talk with the bank manager. Steve Schneider stated that the DPW will carry out the posting of the signs. Steve Schneider will confer with the DPW early in April when all locations are identified.

Carol will post a notice about the signs on Listserv.

- Update on energy related projects around town

Wendell reviewed projects such as LED lighting at the Shaker Museum and the potential of hydro-power from Smith Pond.

- Energy consumption data, analysis of 2009 compared to 2008 and 2007

Tabled

- DPW lighting upgrade National Grid application

The probability of being able to locate the information is questionable. It was suggested that Alisa be asked to contact National Grid. Needs for the DPW building were presented. Examples were revision of the hall lighting by adding light switches so lights are not left on 24/7.

- Legislative update

Discussion of HB1353, "An act relative to group new energy metering"

Steve Goldsmith registered his displeasure in that the bill was stripped of group or community net metering provisions.

V. New Business

- Expiration of terms of service for Energy Committee members

Carol has served the two year term as secretary and will complete it on May 1.

Steve Goldsmith has served the two year term as chair person and will continue as a member.

VI. Other

- Next meeting

The next meeting is April 27 at 5:15 PM, same location.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Lammert, Committee Secretary

Written 3/28/2010; revised 3/29/2010, 4/27/2010