

ENFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES of September 22, 2009,
APPROVED

MISSION STATEMENT: To identify energy savings for the town and energy savings for the community

CURRENT GOAL: Our goal is a 10 % reduction in total energy consumption by the Town Government by the end of 2009 with incremental decreases thereafter, toward a three year goal of 25 % reduction in total consumption by the Town Government (relative to the 2007 baseline data) by the end of the 2011 fiscal year.

DATE/TIME: September 22, 2009 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room, 23 Main Street, Enfield New Hampshire

I. Call to order 5:05 PM

In attendance: Steve Schneider (Town Manager), Larry Battis, Charles DePuy, Steve Goldsmith, Carol Lammert, Rich Lammert, Bo Petersson, Wendell Smith, Kim Quirk Absent: Alisa Bonnette

II. Approval of minutes from August 25 meeting

Minutes were approved with one spelling correction.

III. Public Comment

none

IV. Old Business

- Public Education opportunities

Enfield Farmers Market

Committee members present were Charlie, Rich and Carol. Carol reported that several town residents (year round and seasonal) and several youth. There were positive comments from the public regarding the work of the Energy Committee. The young folks voiced knowledge of positive Idling Awareness practices pertinent to vehicles use at schools. Charlie noted that a few people were interested in reviewing the lap top presentation on the town's energy use. The LED holiday light energy use comparison with incandescent holiday lights using the Kill-A- Watt meter did attract and impress folks. Citizens were aware of the energy savings with use of CFL's in the home. In summary, while there were few contacts made at the Farmers' Market it was evaluated as the type of educational activity that the committee should continue.

One contact at the market was with an individual who is connected with higher education on Environmental issues may be a contact for the town were it to pursue attracting and area energy czar. She also advocated for N350 (350.org), a movement addressing the world's carbon dioxide production; with October 24, 2009 as an international day of recognition. A committee member commented that this may not be something the committee should promote as it may be considered abstract rather than provide practical information. An area community, Hanover, that does have a event planned for the day. The organization is listed on the EEC's web site link under Resources. Wendell offered that there is an additional climate concern educational opportunity with ILEAD at Dartmouth on October 1. This could be advertised on the EEC web site.

The group brain stormed on additional methods to educate the public. Suggestions included possibly putting together a “show” to be presented at Town Meeting, offering a visual aid with a huge thermometer showing where the town is with energy conservation relative to our goal, grafting per capita energy use, etc. There should be content on the carbon footprint. The presentations should be centered on local activity and be both empowering and positive. Kim spoke to the Towns in Transition data as good examples of positive attitudes. The committee should set as a priority the continued planning for the presentation for Town Meeting. Wendell offered a copy of the October edition of Popular Mechanics which highlights self reliance issues to be added to the committee’s popular literature offerings. Kim offered to make available additional literature from her store, the Enfield Energy Emporium, for community educational efforts.

- Ongoing Energy Inventory and Building Efficiency

Reduction in heating costs at the Fast Squad and Fire Department building

The practice of leaving the bay doors open when out on calls was noted. Previous action was to speak with Ken Daniels who would talk with those involved. Steve Schneider offered to investigate the cost of automatic closures as possibly a budget item.

- Update on Programmable thermostat at the Community Building revisions

As discussed at the last meeting it was not known if modifications had been made or if the problems had been remedied.

- Bridge and Veterans Park lighting project

To date resources for funding have not been found. National Grid does not fund LED lighting. The Public Utilities Commission, with a revolving loan funding process, is another option for funding. The two projects have different pay back estimates with the bridge lighting being three years while the Veterans Park is one year. Steve Schneider explained that the town budget does not take into account the pay back time. Reference was made to “regi” money though funds are not yet available.

Larry reported that he had spoken with Henry Cross, who was involved with the Veterans Park Memorial. Mr. Cross favored changes that would save money.

Bo will write letters to the Select board and the town Budget committee in support of modifications in the Veteran’s Park lighting.

Steve Schneider had spoken with the Select board about possible modifications in the Shaker Bridge lighting. The EEC agreed that there should be congruous lighting with the village center, Huse Park and the new Shaker Bridge. Progressive thinking with use of LED lighting was advocated. As well, Wendell mentioned developing the project so that it potentially could be adapted to alternative energy supply would be appropriate. Steve Schneider and Paul Mirski will be working together on future projects. Steve Schneider supported the EEC being proactive in writing a letter voicing support for energy efficient projects. Letters should be written to the County Commissioner, Ray Burton and the Executive Council. Bo will author these letters. Support for local business was favored by the committee.

- NH Energy Assistance Program - Whitney Hall Energy audit

Steve Schneider mentioned that personnel were on site earlier in the day reviewing the building

and its functions. The application for the energy audit was mailed earlier in the day. The audit would involve pressurizing the building. The committee is hopeful in being approved.

-NH HB 189 Town Energy Committee Support

Steve Schneider noted that the EEC is an extension of the town government rather than an independent group of citizens; thus, the committee is supported by the town and legislation does not have an effect on the Enfield committee. He did note that the EEC could request funds for committee activities such as having paid secretarial service, funds for registration at pertinent seminars, cost for educational materials, signage for projects such as Idling Awareness, etc. Steve Schneider will forward copies of other committee's budgets to EEC members. He encouraged the committee to present its budget request at the beginning of October for the Budget committee. The committee will address this as a priority item at the next meeting. Members are to share information with pricing with fellow members via e-mail.

-Idling Awareness follow up post Select board meeting

In the September 9 Select board meeting the EEC's letter requesting support of the education campaign and signage at municipal locations was acknowledged. According to the minutes of that meeting there was concern for diesel vehicles and very young or elderly passengers during cold weather. Idling awareness was seen as an educational campaign to raise consciousness about inappropriate idling. It was agreed that the town could try. The EEC agreed that idling awareness is an educational campaign and would not entail writing an ordinance or devising penalties.

-Enfield Garage lighting follow up post Select board meeting

Review of the September 9 Select board meeting minutes the town will pay for two street lights (the most westerly and the US Rt. 4/Oak Grove light). The flood light may be replaced with a street light; looking to the future it would appropriate to consider LED lighting,; however, National Grid does not offer LED's which are expensive. Steve Schneider will be discuss the change in billing with the owner of the garage. Wendell suggested that use of solar powered transportable lighting be considered to aid the police in the DWI checkpoints.

-Update on energy related projects around town (Shaker Village Sustainability, Library)

Wendell reported that a hydro turbine for the Shaker Mill will arrive soon. Bo reported there are no changes to report regarding the Library project. The design is complete. Funding is needed.

-DWP Lighting upgrade

The National Grid application has been sent by Ken Daniels. Charlie will follow up.

-Huse Park

The TIF committee work with three potential plans was reviewed by Steve Schneider. There will be a public meeting in October. Lighting will be included in the plan. It is to be congruent with the village lighting. Regarding ball park lighting the area is free of residential dwellings. It was recognized that ball park lighting uses considerable energy. Bo will confer with Gary Hubbard of Leading Edge Design of Enfield on availability of any energy efficient field light fixtures.

-Street lighting and outdoor lighting project update

Steve Goldsmith reviewed the committee's work, to date. GPS graphing of numerous lights, according to the committee's recommendations, was presented. Members were appreciative of

the work put into the endeavor. There was speculation on how removal/modification of lights that do not meet criteria (similar to those developed by other town's within the region), would be perceived by some citizens. Potential valuing of street lighting were shared. The cost of street lighting and energy expended were correlated with the town budget and total energy use. Pointers on how to present this project to the public were shared. Rather than presenting a map of the town one suggestion was to develop a visual aid, such as a video, to demonstrate existing town street lights that are not within the criteria(light an intersection, cross walk, high pedestrian/vehicular traffic areas, etc.) (See August '09 EEC minutes for full list.) Kim volunteered to make a presentation of the street lighting project to the Select board on October 19. EEC members were encouraged to attend on that date.

V. New Business

- NHRECOVERY putting New Hampshire to work
- Larry shared information on availability of funding that may be appropriate to the committee's projects. Bo will follow up with contacts with the State Energy Program
- Need for Data on Natural Resources for Alternative Energy production by the town

Charlie requested a natural resources data map on locations for potential water and solar energy production within Enfield. Steve Schneider inventoried town owned land along the Mascoma River and other bodies of water. Collection of data and mapping the area would be a huge project for which the EEC might get assistance from the Conservation Committee.

Steve advocated that the committee be forward thinking and function as proponents for advances in the field of energy generation/conservation.

VI. Other

Next meeting
October 27

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Lammert, Secretary

9/24/2009, Revised 9/25, 9/30, 10/17, 10/24, 10/26