

Enfield Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE/TIME: July 22, 2008 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Whitney Hall Grounds

I. Call to Order 5:21 PM

ATTENDANCE: Present: Rich Lammert, Meredith Smith, Wendell Smith, Carol Lammert.

Absent: Steve Goldsmith, Charles DePuy, Alisa Bonnette (Administrative Staff); John Burrirt (alternate)

Meeting chaired by Rich in Steve's absence

II. Approval of 6/25/'08 Minutes

There were minor grammatical and spelling changes to the minutes. The motion on energy reduction targets for the EPA Community Energy Challenge made by Wendell was modified to read as follows, "Wendell moved that the committee adopt a goal of 10% reduction in total energy consumption by the Town by the end of 2009 with incremental decreases thereafter, toward a three year goal of 25% reduction in total energy consumption by the Town (relative to the 2007 baseline data) by the end of the fiscal year 2011." The minutes were approved with these changes.

III. Old Business

Goals and Objectives Update

Meredith will work with modification of the statement set forth in the first committee meeting to develop an Energy Committee mission statement. This statement will be included in the heading of the agenda for each meeting after it is approved by the committee.

Upcoming events and reports from attendees at meetings/events/activities and informational resources

An e-mail content from Steve regarding the Annual Solarfest event was shared with the members. Saturday's attendance was great; offered 64 work shops, often standing room only with 300+ in some presentations; higher level workshops were very well attended; huge interest in gardening workshops.

Wendell added that the crowd was enthusiastic in spite of the weather conditions. There was a wide variety of offerings including composters along with many types of solar equipment.

The Carbon Coalition Website rstephenson@cleanair-coolplanet.org is recommended by Steve as an excellent resource for all committee members as it is a resource for state wide information for many activities.

Contact with Enfield Library Architect re: alternative energy sources

Wendell reported that he is looking into offerings by The Solar Store. As well, he has been messaging Timothy Bart Thurber and will continue to try to make contact with this person.

Town Energy Audit progress

Meredith stressed the need for programmable thermostats in all public buildings. Obtaining those that can be locked may be desired.

Devising directions and posting them near thermostats and light controls in public buildings, such as the Community Building, is another area for the committee to develop.

Street lighting

The Jaffery approach will be further investigated. Carol will make contact with people identified by Alisa.

Steve submitted a report via e-mail regarding conversations with Putney Energy Committee members. The town has 43 street lights, a committee member is devising a questionnaire for residents living near lights - if needed or not desired, they are looking at replacing some, removing others, adding timers to reduce night use for existing lights.

Enfield Ordinances

Alisa had earlier referred Carol to the Zoning board minutes that have reference to lighting throughout. These needs to be reviewed in greater depth.

Ownership of specific lights identified by pole number from National Grid and fees for lights identified by pole number from National Grid

Alisa had e-mailed that she has made contact with personnel and is awaiting a report which will be shared with the committee when available.

The data on location and foot candle ratings for various lights in the town were reviewed.

The members discussed formulating the best approach for positive results in proposing changes in street lighting before the Selectboard. Savings in cost for street lighting would certainly help meet the 10% reduction in community energy expenditure. It was mentioned that the cost of fuel for the citizens through the coming winter may make this a more plausible action. Building on the information supplied by Kurt Gottardt is agreed upon. Resources for town maps to actually indicate locations of lights were shared. Two potential resources are Jim Taylor and Terra Map, a local business. Use of a map and written information (type of lighting, cost, etc.) would need to be integrated. The committee questioned how in depth to go with this task before there is an indication from the Select Board on what to pursue.

Meredith spoke to the need for education of the public in considering reducing/modifying lighting.

It was suggested that Franklin, New Hampshire, be contacted to learn more on their recent proposal to reduce lighting that was not accepted.

Wendell has made contact with a person (Mr. Cameron McCloud) who provides micro-water turbines to consider that possibility of running the street lighting at the bridges with hydro power which could contribute to the reduction in total energy used.

The committee may wish to integrate the information from Kurt Gottardt, Nationalgrid and Steve on a map and sources for a suitable map were shared. Meredith noted that Jim Taylor has map-making capabilities which could provide a workable drawing of the down town area.

EPA Community Energy Challenge Update

The committee reviewed the data in the 6/25/'08 minute on fuel and electricity with a 10% reduction translated to dollars, gallons and CO2 tons for liquid fuels and dollars for electricity.

Public visibility/educational opportunities

The Farmers' Market informational booth scheduled for September 3 was discussed. Suggestions were made on what content might be used as educational materials for the public. The need to move appropriately before going before the Selectboard was stressed. It was proposed that a colored brochure explaining the work of the Energy Committee be written and given to the public. Examples shared were possibly offering coupons for CFL bulbs along with data on the concern for mercury content and the proper disposal offered through the Enfield Transfer Station. A possible source for coupons and information may be New Hampshire Saves. Wendell spoke to the display used at SolarFest with comparison of different light bulbs mounted on a board and powered by a stationary bike. He said it was impressive to youngsters pedaling the bike. There is a need for committee members to obtain a shelter, display equipment and man the booth from 3 - 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 3.

The Library educational equipment for display of different types of lights needs to be assembled.

The Energy Fair/Tour for August 2009 needs to be planned. The name of Jamie Martin was given as a person interested in making Enfield a carbon neutral town. A tour showcasing houses within the town that are off grid or use alternative energy sources needs to be developed.

Recycling (deferred)

Report to Selectboard

The committee considered timing of when a presentation to the board would be appropriate. Meredith suggested scheduling it before the Selectboard start on the budget. Conferring with Alisa for scheduling was stressed. It is not known if the committee could have materials in a presentable state as early as September. Prioritizing items to include in the initial presentation is important and follow-up at the next Selectboard meeting is recommended keeping in mind not to overwhelm the presentation with content on the initial presentation. The committee agreed that Steve is the person most capable to make the presentation. Clear and concise data could be presented using Power Point. It was presumed that Steve has the abilities to write the presentation. How in depth the report should be was discussed. The committee will visit this topic in greater depth at the next meeting.

No idling ordinance

Carol noted that the Hanover plan, from Mr. Roger Lohr, provided by e-mail to committee members, seemed to be well organized. The content on fines from various national towns/cities was reviewed. Members felt that issuing fines was not the best use of police or the best method to influence citizens. The scope of a policy was undetermined such as recommending compliance by all municipal employees, for all vehicles on town owned property (parking lots, transfer station, schools, etc.) and businesses (banks). When the committee has made progress on this entity, it will need to be presented to the Selectboard. Members discussed if it would be appropriate to hand out any materials as early as September 3 at the Farmers' Market information booth. Carol is looking into samples of items and availability, cost and quantity of educational items through the state. An e-mail had been sent to committee members with

pictures of free signage. The committee would have to determine which signs, the number of signs and cost of posting and maintaining signs if they were to be posted as information to present to the Selectboard. Carol will find that state ordinance on idling and forward it to committee members via e-mail.

Data collection for fuel usage in city owned vehicles/Steve (deterred)

Alternative energy sources update

Wendell reported that he continues to collect information on the use of hydro and geothermal power for this location. It is thought that wind power is not a viable option. As well, hydrogen power is a remote consideration. He will meet with Mr. Mc Cloud to survey the area for possible hydro power. The cost for a micro hydro turbine is possibly \$5000.00. Wendell is interested in meeting with Jim Taylor regarding the Baltic Mill hydro-power source to learn more of what is being generated and if there is a possibility for some benefit to the town.

IV. New Business

Informational Website

Via e-mail Steve had recommended that the committee may wish to consider developing a web site. The example from the Putney Vermont Energy Committee, <http://pec.putney.net>, was offered. The members expressed the view that it may be better to develop a link to the town's website rather than developing an independent source.

Example of Putney Energy Committee's efforts:

Steve communicated that there is a desire to convert to solar domestic hot water as many homes in southern Vt. as possible. Work is being done with the Windham Energy Group which is trying to get 501c3 status and obtain a grant to the fund project. The Enfield Energy Committee may wish to consider obtaining a grant for solar hot water/solar heating. Meredith spoke to the possibility of obtaining a grant through the Historic Commission for any type of town endeavor. She felt that it would be in line with the heritage that Enfield has from the Shaker community, an ingenious group of people who harnessed energy sources.

V. Other

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 P.M..

Next meeting

Tuesday, August 26, 2008 5:00 P.M. Whitney Hall Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,

C. Lammert

July 27, 2008 (corrected 8/26,'08; 8/27/'08)