

## Lee Energy Committee Meeting Minutes January 9, 2019

**Members present:** Lou Grondin, Barb Wauchope, Mary Woodward, Cary Brown

The minutes of the November 14, 2018, meeting were approved.

Cary reported that the LED upgrade projects at the PSC and the Transfer Station are largely completed.

The group agreed to move forward on the PSC blower door project to better quantify and prioritize where added insulation, weather stripping and similar measures could significantly improve energy efficiency and reduce the town's related energy bills. One bid is in. Lou and Mary will contact other vendors to ask for bids so that the committee can obtain approval from the Lee select board for moving forward while the weather is still optimal for the assessment. Lou added that any such insulation project should qualify for a 35% rebate.

Barb is investigating aspects of possible solar panel installation related to the new town center complex. Related to the issue of Lee's service for its town buildings coming from both NHEC and Eversource, she will investigate whether there is any way to move to one supplier. She has contacted a member of the NH Local Energy Solutions (LES) working group for suggestions about how to investigate affordably and will also contact Jim Banks to ask for assistance in evaluating possible scenarios that would allow a one-supplier system that would serve all the town buildings.

Barb pointed out that the January 2019 LES newsletter includes:

- 1) an announcement that the solar panels project, to which Lee and other Energize 360 towns contributed "bonus" solar panels, is now up and running at the Children's Museum in Dover and that there will be a related ribbon-cutting event in February;
- 2) news that in a January 2 letter Governor Sununu moved forward in requesting investigation by a federal task force (BOEM) of the potential value of offshore wind power in addressing the state's energy needs and high costs.

Mary will submit these news items to the Lee Crier. The group concurred that New Hampshire's stated goal of meeting 25% of its energy needs with renewables by 2025 will require aggressive initiatives.

Per Barb, the newsletter also announces the availability of a Strategic Action Toolkit for NH energy committees and discusses Municipal Aggregation & Community Choice Aggregation. Barb will investigate details of the toolkit. Related to aggregation, Mary added that, as Hollis and some of its neighboring towns have done, New Hampshire towns could band together to negotiate their energy rates from suppliers.

Barb reported the building code requirements in the proposed plan have been upgraded, thanks to the responsiveness of the Town Vision Committee to our earlier question about the plan's code standards. Mary added that she had just emailed the energy committee the news that bills related to more modern building, including energy, codes will be discussed in the NH House next week [specifically, by the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee]. New Hampshire currently lags many of its neighbor New England states in building code requirements.

Barb also reported that one Lee attendee at the Town Vision meeting had asked about the potential of geothermal. Lou will contact a local geothermal company about the feasibility of that option for municipal buildings.

Cary suggested investigating whether the energy committee could recruit an intern to work on grant applications for energy efficiency projects that the limited town budget might not be able to afford. Barb will contact UNH Sustainability Professor Fiona Wilson to see what might be possible.