

LYME ENERGY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
19 MAY 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:30

Members Present - Sue MacKenzie, Carola Lea, Matt Brown, Dan O'Hara, Becky Lovejoy, Shirley Tullar, Simon Carr

Absent - Claudia Kern, Tom Hunton

Guest - Gary Phetteplace

Minutes of the April 21, 2008 meeting were approved as circulated.

Topic – Committee membership

There was previous discussion of increasing the membership of this committee and/or having alternate members available to facilitate having a quorum. Simon pointed out that the meetings are public and anybody can attend and participate, and since there is no requirement to vote on various items for legal purposes (as is the case with zoning and planning boards) there is no need to have more members. If the contributions of non members to the work of the committee are significant they can and should be mentioned in annual reports, etc. Carola would like to consider calling them something other than “guests” and we should consider this at our next meeting.

The committee will remain at its present size of 9 members (members and terms listed in the April minutes). Reports shall acknowledge contributions by non members (for example Mike Morton's work on the fair/tour).

Topic - Authorization to use Town Garage for Energy fair/tour.

Simon pointed out that we did not get authorization to hold the energy tour at the town garage before scheduling the fair, and that any such event should be cleared with the selectmen in advance. Discussion showed that we thought we had done what was needed, but had actually scheduled the event without formal approval.

The committee will secure authorization for any such use of town facilities from the selectmen in the future.

Topic - The Energy fair/tour

Sue stated that the event was successful – several of the attendees were in the process of seriously considering the types of projects that were shown and seemed to value the opportunity to make the tour. Becky thought we ought to get more feedback before making a decision to do it again, but much of that came in the ensuing discussion. All agreed that a tent would be a good idea next year, it would have made it better even though we had great weather.

This committee will plan to have another fair/tour next year on May 16, 2009 (the Saturday after mothers day). Simon will clear this date through the town office.

Topic - Acknowledgement of energy fair/tour participants.

It was the consensus that all of the vendors and hosts should be thanked for their participation in the event. We should also ask them for suggestions on how the event might be improved.

Becky will send letters to the vendors and hosts and acknowledge them on the list-serve and in the church newsletter. This will be done this week.

Topic - energy fair/tour finances.

Becky announced that the gross receipts for the fair were \$82.70. Unfortunately Dan then announced that the expenses were \$82.77 (I'm not making that up, I have the receipts!) so we had a net loss of 7 cents. We should certainly do it differently next time, for example we used up \$25.90 worth of lemonade, much of which ended up going down the drain, and we did not price things high enough to cover the costs because we sold so little. If we have it on the green and have more visibility we could probably sell a lot more, or perhaps we should try to get somebody else to come in and do it.

Action on this item is covered in the next topic.

Topic - Budget

Simon emphasized the importance of developing a budget well in advance of town meeting time, and of keeping him advised of possible over-runs as promptly as possible.

We should designate a treasurer to be responsible for this. This goes on the agenda for our June meeting.

Topic - Contact with Green Woodlands

Carola brought up the fact that we ought to be in contact with Green Woodlands to see if they should participate in any of our activities. They apparently were on some sort of national energy tour, and although not technically in Lyme we are the closest community and they have a lot of interesting "off grid" activities going on and are very oriented toward sustainability.

No action was decided on this item. I suggest we send them a letter inviting them to attend a regular meeting at which time we can discuss how we might work together.

Topic - Meeting time

The official list states that our meetings are at 7 on the third Monday of each month. This should be changed to 7:30.

The town office is hereby requested to make this change.

Topic - New NH legislation regarding incentives for various energy projects.

There is apparently a new bill that has passed providing some sort of incentives and/or rebates. Nobody seemed to know exactly what this amounted to.

Sue agreed to research this and report to the committee next meeting.

Topic - Available rebates and incentives.

It was agreed that there is a lot of confusion about what is available and how to qualify and apply for this, and there ought to be a place to get this information other than from vendors with a vested interest. Perhaps we could develop some way of making this information available on line for townspeople.

Matt volunteered to discuss this with Mike Morton and report next meeting.

Topic - Local food.

Shirley described some of the difficulties they are experiencing in getting pasteurizing equipment on line to start selling milk locally. Apparently the state of NH requires a temperature probe that is not required by other states and the supplier has been unable to furnish this yet or tell them when it will be available. When this has been resolved the milk will be available at Stellas and at the farm.

Members will encourage people to buy this when it is available.

Topic - Transportation

It was agreed that we should be doing something to encourage more energy efficient transportation for Lyme residents. The difficulty of getting any type of bus service was discussed. We talked about this with Dan Brand at a previous meeting.

I will try to get Dan to come to the June meeting to see what we can come up with.

Topic - Regional energy committee meeting (SERG)

Carola attended Bob Walker's meeting in Hanover – no specific action.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30

Respectfully Submitted  
Dan O'Hara