

19 January 2009

Lyme Energy Committee (LEC) Minutes

Attendees: Sue MacKenzie (Chair), Carola Lea, Dan O'Hara, Simon Carr (Selectmen's representative), Matt Brown, Rebecca Lovejoy and Gary Phetteplace (recorder)

Topics:

Lyme Country Store – Carola had nothing new to report.

Review of material in Lyme Energy Committee file in Lyme Library – Rebecca has checked into this and brought the file to this meeting. The “Kill-a-Watt” meter was not in the file as it has been in the past, Rebecca will check with the Library on its status. Rebecca will put an announcement out on the Lyme Listserve about the availability of the material in the library and perhaps good sources of information available on the web (a comprehensive list compiled by Carola is in the file now). The light bulb display is believed to be down at Kendall. The status of the suitcase full of CFLs (compact fluorescent lights) for community members to take home and try is not known. The committee felt that the materials included were still all appropriate. Gary agreed to furnish an article he authored on geothermal heat pumps. Dan agreed to contribute his “Home Power” magazines to the library after he is finished with them.

LEC Annual Report – Simon took care of this for us and shared with the remainder of the committee what he had submitted. Carola agreed to write the report next year.

Corn as fuel for Town Garage – The Town Garage biomass heating system has been switched from wood pellets to corn as a fuel. Overall it looks to be less costly and the supplier of the boilers has been consulted and does not anticipate it will cause problems, although the characteristics of this fuel source are different from wood pellets. The corn being used is grown specifically for this purpose and is not a source of food.

Local Foods – Carola reported that schools are the central focus and she will have more to report at the next meeting.

Membership - We are now one member short of a full committee, but Simon suggested waiting until after Town Meeting before considering making a request to the Selectmen to appoint a new member.

Contribution to SERG – Two members of the LEC have been approached by the SERG (Sustainable Energy Resource Group) in hopes of securing a donation to SERG. SERG has helped Lyme in various ways; however an outright donation was not felt to be the best vehicle, especially given the economic situation in the country and Lyme. As an alternative the committee favors donations to SERG at events that SERG participates in within Lyme. One suggestion was that an “Energy Makeover” raffle be held in benefit of SERG.

Emergency response preparedness – The energy implication of events such as the recent ice storm which left many in town without power and in some cases communication was discussed, particularly as it impacts those who are at risk. The town is looking at providing generator hook-ups to those at risk. The role, if any, of the LEC is unclear, but Simon will keep us posted on the efforts.

Transportation Committee – Rebecca reported that the committee will meet one more time before it sunsets. They will try to come up with a relaxed agreement for ride-share modeled in part after the “scab lines” used in metropolitan Washington DC. However, parking is a major issue here in Lyme.

Next meeting – 16 February 2009