

Lyme Energy Committee
Minutes
20 July 2009

Present: Carola Lea, Dan O'Hara, Simon Carr, Gary Phetteplace, Becky Lovejoy

Late: Matt Brown, Mike Morton

Guest: John Gartner

Absent: Sue MacKenzie

Meeting called to order by Becky Lovejoy at 7:30

Minutes of the June meeting were approved as written

Topic: New members

Discussion:

- John is interested in joining the committee

Action:

- Simon will check the proper procedure for bringing him onto the committee

Topic: Local Foods initiative

Discussion:

- Carola reported that she has been unable to get word from Michele Estes who was supposedly getting something going about this at the school.
- She will inquire with Jeff (the principal) to see if anything has been done so far.
- There is a "Farm to School program" and the hope is to get something of this sort involved with the school lunch program.
- There was agreement that this is something that ought to happen at the Lyme school, and that such a program would work best if "championed" by somebody more closely associated with the school such as a parent, teacher, or staff member.

Topic: State Energy Conference in Concord

Discussion:

- Carola: Went to "Building Strong, Engaged, Networked Local Energy Committees".
- Moderator asked about successful projects and what made them that way, and graphing and publicizing results.
- Could we display our results in town offices? Simon wonders if other committees will want to, too. Could use "town crier" bulletin board. Keep display small and up-to-date.
- [after the meeting] Carola asked Matt to bring the charts showing the town garage wood boiler numbers to the next meeting
- Could show numbers for wood boiler in town garage.
- Success stories from the workshop:
 - Police cars with two batteries, to avoid idling. Do Dartmouth's S&S hybrids do that?
 - Some towns have two "tracks" (subcommittees); full committee doesn't meet every month

- Auditing town buildings, such as the firehouse
- Simon: Went to “Building Strong Municipal Partnerships in Local Energy” and “Community Outreach”
 - Any energy project, expect 3 to 5 years to plan and implement [Lyme did town offices this way]
 - Advice on the process: prioritize, assess, etc.
 - Interesting to see how other committees are operating
 - One town “precincted” snowplowing, saving driving, but this violates RSA
 - Weatherization projects: Money kicking about, but nothing happening
 - Academy was reconstructed 10 years ago, has budget money this year
 - COVER had a grant last year (90 homes throughout Upper Valley)
- List of energy sites, including
 - <http://www.jordaninstitute.org/>, nonprofit which does energy audits
 - <http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/>
 - <http://nhenergy.org> , a wiki we could update
 - <http://www.carboncoalition.org/>
 - <http://www.nh.gov/oep/recovery/>
 - <http://www.nhsaves.com/>
 - <http://www.dsireusa.org/>

<http://www.puc.state.nh.us/Sustainable%20Energy/GHGERF%20Grant%20Fund%20Announcement.pdf>

- New England Grassroots Environment Fund may be able to help us with projects
- Gary: RGGI may also be a source of funds
 - Some RGGI funds pigeonhole for audits, insulation, etc.

Actions:

- Becky: Talk to Pauline Field about police car. Need to find out how much they’re idling.
- Matt: Talk to Michael Hinsley about fire station (Becky’s emailed Mike with no response yet.)

Topic: The firehouse

Discussion:

- How do we do an audit? It’s hardly needed
- Can SERG help with that?
- Carola: Is the town going to get stimulus money for things like this?
- Simon: Lyme hasn’t yet identified projects for stimulus money.
- Simon: Need to figure out how to make a plan.
- Becky: Mike and Tim are spread thin; hard to get them on board
- Matt: Can we figure actual and theoretical cost to operate? Can we show that the payback is less than the lifespan.
- Mike: Compute annual savings lost since anyone began talking about this
- Simon: Michael may be waiting for 2014 to replace building, since that’s when school bond expires
- Everyone: We really need to calculate current costs
- Simon: Building dates to early 1970’s, donated labor, second-hand frame

- Matt: Chris Hebb in Thetford does audits

Action:

- Gary, Matt [mostly September]: Talk to Tim Estes, perhaps meet him at the firehouse [after the meeting: Becky has emailed Tim and Mike Hinsley]
- Gary: Ask Bob Walker about audits

Topic: Other town buildings

Discussion:

- Mike: Could we get a list of oil and electric usage for town buildings?
 - Matt: Tom Hunton did that some years ago.
- Simon: Town Offices so well insulated that they don't cool off enough at night; can't leave windows open at night (security)

Action:

- Simon: Ask Dina for usage by each town building

Topic: Shirley Tullar's letter about dairy farmers

Discussion:

- Becky: Stimulus money waiting for approval. Should we as a committee send a letter?
- John: Why is this an energy issue? Becky: Local food means less transport

Action:

- Becky: Draft a letter, cc: to Beatriz Pastor

Topic: PUC

Discussion:

- The PUC has announced details of the state-funded rebate for certain wind and solar electric systems.

Action:

- Mike: Email the Lyme list

Topic: Fuel pre-buying

Discussion:

- Gary: Has the committee ever done this?
- Matt: SERG has done it, but it "fell apart" the season after Katrina; thinks Bob has given up since then

Action:

- Plan to find out what's been done in the past
- Gary: Ask Bob the history

Next meeting: Monday, 17 August, 7:30 – 8:30 pm at the Town Offices

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Morton (with thanks to Dan O'Hara)
Secretary