

Minutes

Lyme Energy Committee

November 17, 2014

Present: Mark Bolinger, Sue MacKenzie, Scott Nichols, Robin Taylor, Mike Novello, Dan O'Hara, also Guest Morty Bailey

Absent: Gary Phetteplace, Johana Jaspersen, Matt Brown

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:35

1. The minutes for the October 20th meeting were approved.

ACTION: Dan will send in to town office.

2. Dan gave a report on the work day at the Fire Station that was organized by Matt Brown for the afternoon of November 15. Matt and Gary worked all afternoon on this and Robin and Dan were there part of the time as well. The seals on the bottoms of all the overhead doors were replaced and the weather-stripping on one door was replaced. Blueboard rigid foam insulation was installed inside the fiberglass panels high on the back wall and sealed in with foam. The question of whether to do anything about the obvious leaks around the exhaust fan is still open (there may be safety implications, so Chief Hinsley has the final say).

ACTION: Done

3. The solar blinking light at the school has been intermittent. A larger capacity battery should be used – unfortunately there may not be enough room in the enclosure.

ACTION: Dan to look up the largest battery that will fit and advise the school.

4. The idea of adding solar panels to the town hall or elsewhere on town property has not gained traction. Sue feels strongly that we should be doing something about this and has supplied power usage data to Gary. If this is something that requires a warrant article preliminary information has to be ready by February to be considered at town meeting.

ACTION: Gary to review figures to discuss next meeting.

5. The “Pelletize Lyme” concept was discussed – Morty feels that using biomass for home heating makes a lot of sense and that the Energy Committee should be doing more to promote it. There was a wide ranging discussion of how this might be accomplished – the “Solarize” model does not fit in a lot of respects, but it was the general sense of the meeting that the technology is ready for wider adoption and this is something the energy committee ought to promote. It makes sense in a lot of ways: it uses a local resource, it employs people locally, it saves money, less money goes out of state, it is particularly appropriate for larger, less well insulated homes which constitute a large percentage of the housing stock in this area. It was agreed that a program should be educational, helping people understand the benefits and advantages of modern wood pellet systems for home heating.

ACTION: Morty and Scott will get together and try to come up with suggestions for an informational event to take place in 2015.

7. It was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:41. The next meeting will be December 15, 7:30 at the town hall meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted
Dan O'Hara