

# Stratham Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: January 17, 2013

Commission members present:

John C. Dold  
Michael Gorman  
Matthew O'Keefe  
James Schlough  
Michael Welty

Also Present: Pat Sapienza, President of Historical Society, John Sapienza

Call to Order: This meeting was held in the Stratham Historical Society building at 158 Portsmouth Avenue, Stratham. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an energy audit of the building. The meeting was called to order at 2:07 PM.

Chairman Dold opened the meeting with introductions of the commission members to Pat Sapienza, the president of the Historical Society. Pat's husband, John, joined the group shortly thereafter. He has been involved in much of the restoration and maintenance work at the site and was able to provide many details about the building.

Matt O'Keefe provided a NREL Energy Audit Data Collection Form which was used for the audit. A completed form is attached to these minutes.

Members toured the building and documented the information found in the Audit Collection Form. Supplementary information is listed as follows.

Primary lighting on the first floor was with 5 ceiling mounted 300-watt incandescent bulbs. Two ceiling fans were used in summer months to assist with maintaining the comfort level of the first floor.

The heating system is controlled with a programmable thermostat which maintains a standby temperature of 62 degF and elevates the temperature to 70 degF 8-12 am on Mondays, 1-4 pm on Thursdays, and 1-4 pm Sundays.

Two 5000BTU window air conditioners are used during summer months as needed during the occupied hours of the week.

Two fireplaces on the first floor had their flues closed with dampers and metal sheeting.

The basement walls of the 1911 stone structure were insulated and waterproofed the year the adjacent fire station was built. A full excavation of the perimeter allowed application of foam and sealant to the perimeter. Footing level drainage was installed.

The oil fueled furnace is a Bard brand with a Beckett burner. A tag indicated that the furnace was last serviced in 2005. John Sapienza indicated that more recent cleaning had been performed non-professionally.

Two humidifiers in the basement (set year-round to 40 %RH) were plumbed to drain into the sump, which drains to the storm sewer.

Matt O'Keefe had a handheld infrared sensor gun to measure temperatures throughout the building. Images of the walls indicated the presence of studs behind the finished wall and no insulation. The instrument revealed heat stratification in the high-ceilinged first floor area. In discussion after the inspection it was commented that the lighting was probably okay given the infrequent use of the building. It was suggested that running the ceiling fans at low speed in the heating season would diminish the heat stratification. The furnace should be serviced and tuned for optimum combustion. Some air sealing around the basement bulkhead door and around the breaker panel access door is advised. The sealing of the chimney flues should be verified. Additional sealing around service openings (plumbing, etc.) is advised. It was decided that the commission will establish a recommendation at the next regular meeting, February 13. The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.