

Stratham Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: August 14, 2013

Commission members present:

Michael Gorman

Matthew O'Keefe

James Schlough

Michael Welty

Absent- excused: John Dold

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:014 pm, Mike Welty presiding in the absence of Chairman Dold

Minutes of the July 10th meeting were reviewed and approved with three minor corrections.

Mike Welty reported that the lighting upgrade at the town garage was not yet completed. He noted that the Energy Commission is not responsible for managing such work. The commission makes suggestions for energy improvements to the board of selectmen and it is up to the town manager to administer such contracted work.

Mike noted that the Stratham Energy Commission has been meeting for one full year and should make a year end review to the board of selectmen. It was agreed that the report should include a summary of the recommendations for energy savings in the five town facilities and provide the latest Portfolio Manager data for current energy use at these facilities. Matt O'Keefe will prepare this report. It will summarize options from which the selectmen can choose to direct follow up by the commission. Two projects that are considered worthwhile are the balancing of the HVAC controls in the police station and various energy saving options for the Stratham Historical Society building. Matt O'Keefe suggested we might pursue alternate funding options for the projects, such as loans repaid with the savings realized.

In consideration of new activities for the commission, Mike Gorman proposed that we reinvestigate performing energy audits at the Stratham Memorial School. Matt O'Keefe suggested considering a centralized system for programming the thermostats in the town facilities. Mike Welty questioned whether we should consider supporting the energy use of the town with a sustainable energy project such as a solar field. Jim Schlough said we might provide energy saving projects and ideas to the town residents.

In further discussion it was noted we could provide the selectmen and the residents of Stratham with data on how much energy is used by residential consumers versus the town government and the commercial/industrial sector. This data could be easily obtained from Unitil. Further activities for the benefit of town residents could be educational presentations on energy savings, exploration of options for renewable energy sources, and clarification of electric sourcing options.

It was decided to include in our annual report summary a plan to have a resident educational program and plans for energy auditing of the SMS and possibly the Cooperative Middle School and Exeter High School. Stratham supports 24% of the cooperative district school budget.

Additional items for consideration in the next year will be the extension of natural gas service to the municipal center and an option to allow the energy commission to influence town policies regarding energy use, such as code requirements for new buildings. The commission can obtain information from energy commissions in other NH towns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm. The next meeting will be September 11th at the municipal center.