

## Stratham Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: October 9, 2013

Commission members present:

John Dold

Michael Gorman

Matthew O'Keefe

James Schlough

Michael Welty

also present:

Paul Deschaine, Stratham Town Administrator

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

Minutes of the September 11th meeting were reviewed, amended to correct incidental errors, and approved.

Matt O'Keefe reported on the status of the annual report to the selectmen that he has prepared. He will add an item to the list of the commission's goals for next year to include an educational display at the town library that will highlight energy conservation incentives and opportunities.

In response to a question regarding how the report should be presented to the supervisors, Paul said that the report should be submitted to him and that he will forward it to the selectmen prior to the selectmen's meeting. It was agreed that members of the commission should be present for that meeting. A one-page summary of the report should be prepared for inclusion in the town's annual report. This is due by January.

In discussion of the commission's plan to perform a blower door test at the Stratham Historical Society building, Mike Welty reported that Unitil has no more energy rebate funds for the current year to support this project. The commission will therefore use the remaining \$600 in its budget to perform this test. Paul reported that an improvement of the bulkhead entrance of the basement of the building is in progress. Matt O'Keefe and Mike Welty will check with the contractor, Dan Crow, to schedule the test after this upgrade is completed. They will get quotes for the test from local vendors.

David Walker, of Green Power Management, was not able to be present at our meeting as had been previously scheduled. He has requested town utility data for the last three years. Paul will make this available to him.

Stratham resident Kevin Madley's inquiry to the town regarding tax assessment issues for replacement heating systems was reviewed. As his plan to install a pellet boiler as a replacement for an oil-fired boiler resulted in no property value increase, the issue was avoided. It was questioned how this would resolve if a resident was adding an energy saving central heating unit in

system. This led to discussion of external wood-fired installations by the town.

It was commented that there is a pending state legislative effort to make \$2 million available to New Hampshire municipalities for energy savings projects. The current status is unclear. The commission will watch for ongoing developments.

Paul reported that an initial review of electric billing at the highway garage showed significant saving from the lighting improvements recently performed at the recommendation of the commission. He added that more data is needed to make a definitive assessment.

The commission will move ahead with an energy audit of the Stratham Memorial School. Mike Gorman has been in contact with Bob McAlpine, head of maintenance at the school. Mike will contact him to try for an October 14th audit to be attended by John, Mike Welty, and Jim. The school will be closed for a holiday. Additional information is needed on utility usage. Mike Gorman will contact Donna Minutelli of SAU 16 accounts payable (775-8661) to get oil billing and updated electrical use at the school.

The commission has considered extending the energy audit process to the Cooperative Middle School and Exeter High School. Stratham, as one of seven member towns of SAU 16, bears a major portion of the costs for these facilities. Paul recommended that the commission complete the audit at SMS and share the results with other entities to encourage extending the auditing process to coop locations. Mike Gorman will ask Donna Minutelli if she is aware of any auditing of these facilities in the past.

It was noted that that the commission needs to reelect its officers. This will occur in April to put the commission on a regular schedule for this process.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 13th, 7pm, at the municipal center.