

Stratham Energy Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 11, 2013

Commission members present:

John Dold

Matthew O'Keefe

James Schlough

Michael Welty

also present: Paul Deschaine, Stratham Town Administrator

absent: Michael Gorman

The meeting was called to order at 7:03.

The minutes of the November 6 meeting, previously distributed, were approved as written.

The next order of business was the status of the blower door test at the Stratham Historical Society. Matt confirmed that the company that performed the Unutil sponsored energy audit at his house will be able to do the blower door test but not until December 31. The test and invoicing should be performed in this calendar year to be covered by the \$600 remaining in the Energy Commission's 2013 budget. Paul said he needs the invoice for the work by December 23rd. Matt commented that he was very impressed with the work done at his house. John will contact Pat Sapienza to arrange for access to the building. Matt will determine the timing of the test and inform commission members by phone.

John questioned what was needed to complete the Portfolio Manager data entry for the Stratham Memorial School. We determined that details of propane usage and the last few months of utility bills (electric and oil) will bring the status of the building's energy use up to date through 2013. John will contact Mike Gorman, who is to get the propane usage.

John expressed our interest in using the SMS audit as a means to promote energy audits of the SAU16 Cooperative Middle School and the Exeter High School. It was determined that we will complete the SMS Profile Manager, analyze the results and make recommendations. This will be conveyed to Travis Thompson, SMS board president. We will encourage Travis to share and promote this with other SAU16 member school boards to garner support for the process.

It was unknown what other towns in the SAU district had energy commissions. John will research this.

We discussed our request to the supervisors for a 2014 budget for the commission. Matt explained how his proposal for a town promotion of recommended energy suppliers for town residents might impact the budget.

What Matt is proposing is in conjunction with work he is performing for a masters degree thesis. Given the recent deregulation of electric power, residents are able to individually contract for their electricity from numerous providers. The distribution of that power remains with the local utility. If residents take no action, they get power by default from a provider chosen by Unitil. Some communities in the nation are proactively leading in the selection of providers who offer good rates and renewable energy sourcing options. In some cases, the entire community may use the same provider, in others, residents can choose from a broader range of suppliers. Matt expects that, for Stratham, allowing residents to choose from a list of recommended suppliers would be most suitable.

A likely proposal would be that the town, through the Energy Commission, would approach energy providers and ask them to propose rates for two options; a 25% renewable sourcing and a 100% renewable sourcing. The commission would determine that these proposals meet certain standards. These proposals would then be promoted by the commission to the town residents.

John asserted that this action would be within the scope of the energy commission's objectives, primarily in providing educational resources to the town residents. It is expected that this might become active by early 2015. Matt anticipates expenses of \$1200 for legal reviews, \$800 for web services, and \$400 for promotional materials.

It was proposed and approved by unanimous vote to ask for \$2000 for the 2014 budget for the commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting of the commission will be Wednesday, January 8th, 2014, at the Municipal Center.