

# Stratham Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: February 12, 2014

Commission members present:

John Dold

Michael Gorman

James Schlough

Michael Welty

also present: Chris Treadwell, UNH student; Keith McBrien of GDS Associates; Paul Deschaine, Stratham Town Administrator

absent and excused: Matt O'Keefe

Before the formal commission meeting, three members (Dold, Gorman, Schlough) met at 7 pm at the home of Stratham resident Kevin Madley, 31 Pinewood Drive, to see his pellet boiler installation. Kevin originally approached the Energy Commission in September to learn about state and town tax incentives for residential energy saving projects. He has kept the commission abreast of his project and members were interested to learn more about it.

Kevin's pellet boiler system was purchased from Maine Energy Systems. It is an auto feed system that also automatically removes ash from the process and stores it in a container that needs to be emptied every few weeks at most. Pellets are delivered to a bulk storage in his basement much the way oil is normally delivered. The boiler is a replacement for an older oil-fired boiler. He estimates he is on track to save about 50% on heating costs. The cost of installation was offset by funding from Unutil as part of the state mandated energy saving rebate program.

The official meeting at the Municipal Center was called to order at 7:42.

The minutes of the January 8th meeting, previously distributed, were approved as written.

The commission reviewed plans for having a formal energy audit performed on the Stratham Municipal School. Chris Treadwell, a senior at the UNH Manchester campus and majoring in Mechanical Engineering, will be preparing the audit under the guidance of his senior project sponsor and advisor, Keith McBrien. Keith volunteers his time as a UNH Manchester alumnus. Keith is professionally involved as an energy consultant with GDS Associates, Inc in Manchester.

John explained that we want an ASRAE Level II report to show the SMS board as a step in getting the SAU 16 board to approve the performing of energy audits of the middle school and high school. A generic sample report was forwarded to Chris for reference.

Chris and Keith explained that their process will involve computer modeling of the facility to make a projected performance standard for the building and then compare that to the actual performance. Keith said that he and Chris are willing to do a presentation of the results at a future meeting. The report will be action based with recommendations and estimates for energy sav-

ings. A report is expected at the April 9th meeting. The commission is also interested in having a presentation in April with the SMS board.

Chris has prepared a Scope of Work for the project and will forward this to the commission.

A site visit to the school will be required to gather data. The preferred time is during school vacation week, preferably the 26th, 27th, or 28th, and will require most of the day. Mike Gorman will contact Bob McAlpine to schedule. Mike Welty suggested we supply the information we already have on the SMS to Chris so that Bob won't have to duplicate it.

It was noted that energy data we have goes back to the early 1990s and that energy audits and updates have been performed several times since then. Chris will request this information from Bob to incorporate appropriately.

Keith and Chris are excused from the meeting and thanked for participating.

John asked Paul why our 2014 budget request for \$2000 had been cut to \$1500. Paul explained that the budget advisory committee considered the increase excessive compared to other budget increases and lowered the amount to last year's level.

Paul reported that frozen pipe damage to the Historical Society building was less than \$1000. This had been caused by the heating system not having been turned back on after the blower door testing of the building on December 31. Paul will forward the information to Matt O'Keefe for him to pass on to the contractor as a claim.

John asked Paul if we could spend money from our budget to attend the New Hampshire Local Energy Work Group Conference on April 12th at Winnisquam Regional High School in Tilton. Paul said the \$25 registration fee was certainly reasonable and any members of the commission who wanted to go could be reimbursed.

John proposed that the commission reach out to the community with a promotional effort such as selling LED bulbs at the Library or Town Office. After further discussion it was decided that Mike Welty will contact Tim Noonis at Unitil to see if they can provide a case of LED's, some NH Saves Brochures and other energy saving related literature. Paul noted that if the commission wants to have any promotional activity at the town meeting, it will need prior approval from the selectmen.

Future meetings of the commission will be in Community Room 2 at the municipal center. Previous meetings have been held in the Land Use Room. The meeting adjourned at 8:42. The next meeting of the commission will be Wednesday, March 12th, at the Municipal Center.