

Stratham Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: March 12, 2014

Commission members present:

John Dold

Michael Gorman

Matt O'Keefe

James Schlough

also present: Paul Deschaine, Stratham Town Administrator

absent and excused: Mike Welty

The meeting was moved from Community Room 2 to the Selectmens Conference room because of noise in Community Room 1. It was called to order at 7:06.

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

John displayed a print copy of the Stratham Energy Commission Web page. Paul noted that the designation for the appointment of Mike Gorman should be corrected to be for 3 years as of 2013. It was clarified that the beginning of a term of service is in April when selectmen approve appointments.

Paul reported that the contractor for the Historical Society blower door test performed on 31 December 2013 has made payment for the frozen pipe repairs necessary because of the failure to restart the furnace after the test.

John reported on the most recent energy audit performed at the SMS by UNH student Chris Treadwell and his senior project advisor Keith McBrien. John and SMS head custodian Bob McAlpine spent most of the day with them on the March 26th tour of the facility. Bob was able to provide additional engineering reports on past audits and upgrades. John said he was very impressed with their use of the computer programs eQuest and Open Studio to record building construction details and energy use data. This process produces models that predict the required energy usage.

John reported that Chris Treadwell has confirmed that he will present his results at the April 9th commission meeting. The commission wants to have an SMS board member at that presentation as a step in getting approvals to perform similar audits at the SAU 16 school facilities (middle school and high school). Mike Gorman will contact Travis Thompson, SMS board chair, to request that someone from the school board attend.

John asked the commission members what we might be able to do in response to the Georgetown University one-time competition for communities in the US to apply for grant money for energy

focused projects. The competition has a total of \$5 million available for winning entries. Matt suggested that it might be good for us if we had a “shovel ready” project, but we don’t. We decided that an entry would require far more work than we are prepared to do within the time limits.

John renewed the discussion of the SMS audit and said he was impressed with Keith’s awareness of details. He gave a lot of attention to issues with computer usage and possible upgrades in the kitchen. It was noted that Keith thought it important to have Tim Noonis from Unitil involved in the review of the audit, as Unitil rebate funds might be available for improvements. John will contact Keith to request that he ask Tim, or some representative of Unitil, to attend.

John asked commission members about interest in having a presence at the Stratham Fair this summer. He explained that there is a “town tent” right at the fair entrance from Portsmouth Avenue and that several town commissions have displays on hand and some staffing. He would love it if we had stuff to give away. Matt said he had access to a pedal cranked generator that is used as a demonstration of the power usage of light bulbs. Matt also said he could contact the NH Coop Extension to see if display information would be available. Mike Gorman will check with the Lonza Environment Action Forum where he works for similar options. John will explore opportunities at the Local Energy Conference he will attend on April 12th. Jim will explore options with the NHSaves program and make contact with the Osram plant in Exeter for display and/or give-away items.

John distributed copies of an email he had from Peter Dunn of Northeast Electrical Distributors regarding a lighting project in the Town of Durham. Peter has approached the commission about attending one of our meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08. The next meeting of the commission will be Wednesday, April 9th, at the Municipal Center.