

Stratham Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: June 11, 2014

Commission members present:

John Dold

Matthew O'Keefe

James Schlough

Michael Welty

also present: Paul Deschaine, Stratham Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dold at 7:12.

John reported that he has asked the Stratham Fair committee for a table in the Stratham town tent at the fair this summer to promote the Energy Commission. In previous discussions Matt had offered to provide a hand crank generator for a hands-on demonstration of the difference in power required for a standard incandescent bulb and an energy saving bulb. He said he now has that device available for use. Jim reported that Unitil expressed a reluctance to participate in an NH Saves promotion that would involve many attendees from outside their service area, though they would be very willing to do a promotion at a gathering limited to town residents. Matt suggested that we hand out flyers for an energy saving seminar that could be presented at the library this fall. Mike suggested that we have materials to promote the home energy audits that Unitil advocates. It was decided that Mike will contact Unitil about the energy audit items and Jim will see about getting NH Saves catalogs available. He will also draft some poster material to explain the commission's purpose and activities.

The minutes of the May meeting were reviewed and approved.

John reported that he thought the Stratham Memorial School Board had a positive impression of the energy audit performed this spring and would be likely to proceed with some of the recommendations in the report. He is especially interested in the possibility of switching to wood pellet boilers. Paul noted that the school budgeting process begins in September. Mike said that at our May meeting we questioned if the commission should specifically recommend improvements for the board to consider. Matt suggested we ask the board if they want the commission to weigh in further with its recommendation or if we should just tell the board that we are available as a resource for them. Paul said that the 50/50 cost share for energy saving improvements might not be available in future years. In regard to boiler replacement he said that the underground oil tanks are nearing end-of-life and that should be factored into cost estimates. John will prepare and circulate a draft email to the board asking for their preferences.

John has received additional propane use data for the school which should allow for completion of the Portfolio Manager file. He requested that the board approve the hiring of an intern to add this data and make additional data current. The board approved a motion to allow the hiring of

an intern for \$15 an hour with a cap of \$300. Matt has interns at UNH available and will supervise.

Mike suggested that we could use interns to conduct inspections of roof-installed equipment on town buildings. He cited instances of clogged ventilation grills, slipped fan belts, and programmed thermostats not set. Paul said that existing custodial staff can be directed to do this and that would provide better continuity.

The board reelected officers for the current year. John Dold will continue serving as chair, Mike Welty as Vice-Chair, and Jim Schlough as Secretary.

The board discussed the status of the town's electric supply contracts. Mike noted that the cost of power has been increasing. If power contracts are not renewed, the charge for power will default to a daily rate that can be substantially higher than the previous contracted price. It was recommended that each month the commission have on its agenda a review of the status of town contracts and market prices.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. The next meeting of the energy commission will be 7 pm, July 9th, at the Stratham Municipal Center.