

Stratham Energy Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 2014

Commission members present:

John Dold

Michael Gorman

Matthew O'Keefe

James Schlough

Michael Welty

This meeting was scheduled in conjunction with the 6:30 pm Button Up NH presentation held at the Wiggin Memorial Library and sponsored by the commission. The meeting was held in the Quiet Study Room of the library and was called to order by Chair Dold at 5:32 pm.

The minutes of the June 11th meeting, previously distributed, were approved. The scheduled meeting for July had not been held because of the lack of a quorum. The August meeting had been cancelled.

The first item on the agenda was a proposal to conduct an ASHRAE Level II energy audit for the SAU 16 Cooperative Middle School. It was reported that Keith McBrien of GDS Associates had contacted the commission about energy auditing tasks that he could assign to UNH students he mentors. McBrien had been instrumental in the energy audit performed in the spring at the Stratham Memorial School under the same program. Mike Welty said he had spoken about this with Richard Wendell, who is in charge of the Coop District facilities, and had received a positive endorsement of the effort.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved for promotion and sponsorship by the commission of a Master Energy Plan for the Cooperative Middle School conducted under the UNH student internship program.

John Dold proposed that the commission might submit a request to the PUC for use of the Renewable Energy Fund for NH municipalities. He suggested that we could use the proposal from 2009 to put solar panels on the town fire station. The proposal would be due on September 19th. After some discussion John withdrew his proposal and the commission decided to consider a new proposal for a wood pellet boiler for the Stratham Memorial School. Such a proposal could be made ready for the next round of RFPs. The existing oil-fired boilers are near the end of normal life and the idea for a pellet boiler had come up during the energy audit this past spring. Mike Gorman suggested that it might be worthwhile to spend some dollars on an engineering study to firm up some numbers for a proposal that would address scope of work, a cost/benefit analysis, life cycle costs, and paybacks. It was agreed that we would discuss taking further action with the school board at the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm. The next scheduled meeting of the commission will be 7 pm, October 8th, at the Stratham Municipal Center.

Commission members then moved to an assembly room in the library for the Button Up NH presentation given by Craig Cadieux, an Energy Solutions Advisor for the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative. He was assisted by Gordon Tuttle, Program Administrator for Energy Efficiency Services of PSNH. The hour long program covered reducing electrical costs, reducing heating costs, health and safety issues, working with professionals, and the NH Saves program. They encouraged residents to take advantage of the \$100 refundable energy audit with up to \$4000 in correctional incentives. About 12 members of the public attended the presentation along with the five commission members.