

# Stratham Energy Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Date: November 12, 2014

Commission members present:

John Dold

Matthew O'Keefe

James Schlough

Michael Welty

also present: Keith McBrien of GDS Associates, Michael Ream

absent: Michael Gorman

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Chairman Dold. Minutes of the October 8th meeting, previously distributed, were approved.

The first agenda item focused on plans to conduct energy audits at the SAU 16 Cooperative Middle School. Keith McBrien, of GDS Associates, was asked how such a study would compare with the previous effort performed at the Stratham Municipal School earlier this year. Keith directed a UNH Manchester senior engineering student in this audit as his mentor for a degree course requirement. Keith explained that the audit performed at the SMS was an ASHRAE Level II study but the effort for the Middle school would be along the lines of a Master Energy Plan. This level of study could include additional details such as the procurement of energy and renewables and quotes for new systems that might be recommended. He said it would be about twice the effort of the work performed for the SMS. Some of the system recommendations might be for solar energy and a master control system for energy use at the school.

John asked about the creation of a Portfolio Manager record for the middle school. Keith said the project student could perform the data entry for the facility. There was some question if the information had already been compiled by Dick Wendell, SAU16 facilities manager, who oversees the coop middle school.

Mike Welty made a motion that the commission proceed with a Master Energy Plan for the Cooperative Middle School to be performed by GDS Associates in cooperation with UNH Manchester engineering students. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mike Welty will get Dick Wendell and Keith McBrien connected to proceed with the study. Keith said he would like to get a quick walk-through of the facility so that he could prepare a detailed scope-of-work for the students. Target dates for the walk-through were set for November 24, 25, or 26. Mike Welty will see to getting the permissions from Dick Wendell.

The report is expected to be complete by April 2015. Mike Welty said we should get on the school board's calendar for the April meeting to make the presentation. Keith said he would like the students also to make the presentation for the Spring meeting of the Local Energy Working Group.

The next agenda item concerned the recommendations for boiler replacement at the SMS. Keith noted that this had been the most significant item to come out of the energy audit there. He said the next steps would be the development by GDS directed UNH engineering students of a system schematic for a biomass heating system and detailed cost estimates to be compared with cost estimates of a baseline replacement system for the existing boilers. The existing oil-fires boilers are within a few years of the projected end-of-life. This step would be followed by an application for grants when Renewable Energy Request for Proposals from the Public Utilities Commission are announced next year. GDS would charge \$4900 to develop the grant proposal at that time.

Keith added that the strength of a grant request is greatly improved by proposing cost sharing for the project, such as 50% grant and 50% local funding.

John said we needed to meet with Sandy McDonald, SMS board chairman, to get her on line with planning a budget item for this potential expense. Mike Welty made the motion that the commission recommend to the SMS school board to include in the 2015/16 budget \$4900 for the cost of a grant application for a biomass heating system. The motion was unanimously approved. John will contact Sandy McDonald regarding this.

Mike also made a motion that the commission direct GDS Associates, working with UNHM engineering students, to prepare a biomass renewable energy system schematic and estimated costs for the SMS to be presented at the April meeting of the energy commission. The motion was unanimously approved.

Stratham resident Michael Ream, who attended the meeting out of general interest, and who is an account manager for Sprague Energy Corporation, was asked about his take on the energy situation in New England. He confirmed that natural gas supply is tight due to the limited main supply lines and that costs, compared to the rest of the country, are highly variable based on demand. Some energy users are staying dual-fuel (oil and gas) for the immediate future to take advantage of seasonal cost fluctuations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. The next scheduled meeting of the commission will be 7 pm, December 10, at the Stratham Municipal Center.