

**Town of New London
Energy Committee Meeting
January 5, 2009**

Members present: Mark Vernon, Bob Crane, Jack Harrod, Lansing Reed, Joan Cobb, Alice Sprickman, Dave Sauerwein, Jim McCann, Mike Meller, Frank Anzalone

Also present: Dave Harris, Ann Loeffler

Not present: Chet Reynolds (Chair)

Mark Vernon opened the meeting at 7: 00 p.m. with roll call and the announcement that the chair, Chet Reynolds, was in Florida and had asked Mark to chair this meeting.

Mark then moved on to the meeting minutes from December 8, 2008 and had one item that needed correction, in the first paragraph, item number one should read ‘were the result of the infra-red scan’. Jack Harrod stated that he and Camille Holmes had already spoken about correcting the spelling of some members’ names. Mark Vernon added that in AFW Action 1.1.3 should read Ausbon Sargent Land Trust.

Motion to adopt the meeting minutes with the corrections - Jack Harrod
Second - Jim Mora

Motion carried to adopt the meeting minutes with the corrections.

Mark Vernon moved on to the second item on the agenda: Idling - What is the status of “No Idling” signs and tip cards? He stated that he believed the signs had been ordered along with the tip cards to be handed out with each sign. Jack Harrod asked wasn’t Jessie doing that? And Mark responded yes, and he hasn’t heard for over two months. Jack Harrod said he kept asking at the last meeting because the Post Office would like them and other places as well. Mark stated that the two signs ordered were already earmarked for the Transfer Station. Jack Harrod replied that the Post Office would like one and Mark responded that they should buy one. Mark also said he would email Jessie to find out the status of the signs and the tip cards that will be distributed with licenses.

Moving on to the next agenda item: Climate Change Action Plan - Who is on deck for the February meeting? Mark stated that Chet had suggested that each member take one topic and do a presentation similar to his at the last meeting and wondered if there were any volunteers for the February meeting who would take their topic and give the Commission an overview of it? Bob Crane stated that he could do it as he was supposed to be giving a presentation for the Intertown Record at the end of this month, his topic being Climate Change and its Effect on New London. Mark asked if 20 minutes would be alright and Bob stated that he could do 45 minutes.

Mark stated that the next meeting would be Feb. 2nd.

Mark then moved on to the Intertown Record articles, item number four on the agenda. He asked Bob Meck if he was on board for it. Alice Sprickman asked if he was satisfied with the idea of every two weeks as opposed to once a month and he stated that he had told her before that it would be towards the end of the month for submitting each article. Mark asked him if he had signed up to do them all every two weeks, to which Bob replied no. Jack Harrod asked if Annette had agreed to every two weeks and Alice responded that yes, she would take them every week if they were submitted. Jack Harrod offered to submit his article on solar systems if he could get his computer system up and running again. Alice asked if there could be some kind of summary of the library status at this point. Mark thought that would be a good idea and wanted to have at least three articles lined up.

Jack Harrod asked about the Lights Out as an article and Mark responded that it would have to be done soon in order to get it out to the public in time. Jack suggested that it should be done first before the end of the month instead of having Bob's article and Mark responded that he had a press release that he wanted to get to them and asked Alice what the turnaround time would be between when they get the article and it's published. Alice responded that if they got it to them by Monday, it would be in the next day's publication.

Mark stated that he would endeavor to get an article to them and asked if he should go through Alice to submit it. Alice responded that if he did go through her, that he should also send a copy to Jessie Levine as she has requested a copy of everything that is being published.

Frank Anzalone offered to do home tips on the webpage and also suggested waiting til Chet returned before doing any articles on the library. Mark stated that Frank's Tracy Library article would be sometime after February 9th and Frank agreed that was correct.

Dave Harris asked what Frank's capacity at the library was and Frank responded that he researched who could do the envelope evaluation and the thermal scan. Jack Harrod suggested that the two of them could work together as co-authors.

Mark suggested that maybe something could be written from Colby Sawyer. Dave Sauerwein asked when the article would be due and who did he turn it into? Alice Sprickman responded that it would be easier and more consistent if everyone turned in their articles to her so that the calendar doesn't get bunched up and Jack Harrod stated that it would be better for the Intertown Record to have one point of contact.

Mark stated that would get the Committee through to the next meeting at which point more articles could be suggested.

Joan Cobb suggested that an article about what the Committee is doing could be written and Jack Harrod replied that that was the very first lead article in the Argus and Jessie Levine had written it, but that it might need a re-stating in the Intertown Record.

Mark then moved on to the fifth item on the agenda: Robin Steiner, KRMS teacher - Alice and Jack will be meeting with her on the 13th. What are the issues and initiatives for possible partnership? Mark stated that he could not meet with her for the 1:30 p.m. scheduled meeting and Alice explained that Jack had suggested having Ms. Steiner come to one of the Committee's meetings and Chet had asked her to speak with Ms. Steiner with a smaller group first, which is why she asked Ms. Steiner when would she like to meet and that was Ms. Steiner's time choice. Mark asked if anyone else would like to join Alice and Jack. Alice explained that Ms. Steiner is the curriculum coordinator for the Kearsarge Regional School System. Jack Harrod reiterated that if Ms. Steiner is an actual resident of New London, she could be a member of this committee, but if not, the committee could certainly work with her.

Mark asked what else would be discussed at the meeting with Ms. Steiner and Alice responded that she had sent her the climate change action plan and that they should find out what type of activities some of her teachers are engaged in that the committee could give some support to and where they might be of some support to the committee as well.

Jack Harrod suggested that the Lights Out information be distributed to the children who in turn could take it home to their parents. Mark Vernon stated that he only had one copy for Alice to give to Ms. Steiner, who hopefully could make copies to be distributed.

Alice stated that they were just exploring the possibilities and didn't want to interfere with what the teachers were doing, but if you look at the goals and objectives of what they recommend the teachers teach, the committee could possibly contribute. Jack Harrod asked Dave Sauerwein if Colby Sawyer worked with the school district at all because the college offered teacher education and environmental studies and it seemed like some of the seniors could be working with the school district. Dave responded that he was sure that they (the seniors) are doing that.

Mark thanked Alice and asked her if she was going to craft an email after she meets with Robin and Alice responded yes. She stated that Ms. Steiner should be able to come to the meeting after Chet is back and Mark responded that would probably be the March meeting.

Mark then moved forward to the next agenda item: Lights Out 2009 - see press release. Who can help with promotion? He wrote a press release and was hoping everyone would help spread the word. Mike Meller asked how enthusiastic everybody will be considering the recent outage from the ice storm and this would be too soon after that experience. He suggested that it be done in May because by that time people would not have such recent memories of the outage. Dave Sauerwein stated that if it was done later than what was planned now, Colby Sawyer could be more actively involved. Jack Harrod asked if the last time around wasn't it done almost around daylight savings time and Mark responded that it was in February last year. Jack responded that at one time it was discussed about having it coordinate with daylight savings time to which Mark agreed and stated that they chose this date because of a Jack Frost event. Mike Meller suggested that the Committee consider it because it was a very raw memory for a lot of people.

Jack Harrod asked when spring break was for Colby Sawyer and Dave answered March 9th. Jack stated that Lights Out shouldn't be done that week so that Colby Sawyer could participate and Frank Anzalone asked if it was done mid-April, when would the press release go out? Dave Harris responded that it was two to three weeks before the event and Mark stated that they could have it just before they go to the daylight savings time change, which Jack Harrod stated was in early March. Joan Cobb stated that it wasn't really an inconvenience, it was two hours and everybody in town understood that it was a symbolic gesture to save energy. Jack Harrod stated that he thought Mike's point was valid in that it may come too soon after the recent lights out and it might bother some people who just had 4 days without lights. Mike stated he thought it would lessen the impact of what the Committee was trying to accomplish by doing it so soon. He thought it should be done when there would be more of a contrast. Jack Harrod suggested mid-March.

Jim McCann asked if there was any type of handout of the conceptual idea and the point of this whole thing. Mark responded that they had pledge cards that were distributed last year (printed 1,000, distributed 300), so because of the monetary concerns this year, they were thinking of not doing that again this year. Jack Harrod reiterated again that they did not want to do this during the College break in order to have the College participate. Mark asked if anyone knew for sure when daylight savings time was happening this year and Jack Harrod stated that he believed it was in early March.

Joan Cobb asked if the Committee was really planning to change the date just because a few people might be upset? Jack Harrod stated that they were looking for an optimum time to have more people participate. Mark stated that while he was willing to turn his lights out on the 30th, but if the consensus was that the timing wasn't right; Dave Sauerwein stated that he could see the higher effectiveness and full participation by the College being a little later, even a week later would help; Alice asked if it was in February last year and Mark confirmed that it was the 21st. Frank Anzalone asked about coordinating with the global lights out. Mark offered to look into when the actual date was for both daylight savings time and the global lights out event.

Jack Harrod stated that even if they held it in late February, there would still be plenty of time after the meeting on February 2nd to get press releases out to the Intertown Record and distribute some information around. Mark stated that he wanted to advertise in the Kearsarge Shopper and Jack responded that would cost money, but Mark replied that Jackie had kind of already said okay to that. Mark asked Dave Sauerwein when break would be and Dave responded that he believed it was March 9th. Mark stated that they needed to have it occur before that time then. He asked if everyone was okay with that and there were no objections.

Mark then moved on to item number seven on the agenda: Web site updates needed. Mark stated that he would like to use it more actively and that it had only been updated once or twice to his knowledge. Alice asked if it was possible to use it like a blog?

Jack Harrod stated that even the meeting minutes were not current on the website and wanted to know who the webmaster for the site was. Mark stated that they had gone through Jessie Levine, but he didn't know if it was Jessie. Camille Holmes stated that to her knowledge it was Linda Jackman. Jack stated that they needed more updated information posted on their section of the web and could include the Lights Out information as soon as he had a firm date as well as the articles for the Intertown Record. Alice Sprickman suggested two articles from the new legislation that went through last year. Jack Harrod suggested an article about the new no idling signs. Alice asked if she should contact Linda Jackman to find out more information and Mark agreed that would be a good idea. He asked Alice if she was volunteering to be blog master and she responded that she would love to be.

Mark moved on to the last item on the agenda: other issues. Mark stated that Chet Reynolds had drafted a report for the Town report and advised that if any member of the Committee had any changes that they be conveyed directly to Jessie Levine (or Linda Jackman). Alice had an electronic version that she would email to the Committee members.

Mike Meller stated that he would be attending the Planning Board meeting the following night for the discussion about windmills and Mark asked if him if he had a copy of Chet's letter to take to the meeting. Mike stated that he did not have a copy and Mark gave him one. Mark then asked Lansing Reed if he was attending that meeting as well. Lansing said he was planning on it, but didn't know a great deal about it. Mark then gave a quick statement about Chet's position, that being that the Energy Committee supported this change which is really a State initiative.

Jack Harrod stated that he had seen the largest windmill ever in Worcester at a high school that was able to power the entire school and the noise factor was minimal. He stated that he thought you couldn't put something like that right in the middle of a populated area. Mark stated that prompted him to think of something and he asked Jack to find out more about the new middle school's heating plant when he met with Robin Steiner, how much it was consuming, etc.

Bob Crane stated that there will be a vertical cylinder windmill going in Times Square that will be 40 feet high. Mike Meller stated that in Manhattan there are avenues that are like corridors for wind.

Mark asked if there was anything else and Alice stated that Chet had received an email from **Catherine Busham (sp?)** who had cited the New London Energy Committee in a posting that she had put online in the Sunapee News. Alice stated that she would send a copy via email along with the other things she would send out to the Committee members. Mark asked if the Intertown Record would not be in favor with sharing articles with a competitor and Alice replied that she didn't know. Jack Harrod state that it was good publicity because no one else around had an Energy Committee and maybe now Sunapee would now start thinking about it.

Mark asked if anyone had seen Chet's new wood furnace yet and Frank said he had, but not when it was burning.

Mark asked if there was anything else and Dave Harris asked if, in conjunction with the lights out event, could there possibly be a day in say August when it was 90 degrees and have people shut off their air-conditioning? Mike Meller said that it didn't really make an impact as air-conditioning was only really used maybe two weeks out to the year. Jack Harrod asked who in this room had air-conditioning and no one did. However, Mark stated that he thought a good thing to try was to get people to stay out of their cars, i.e. use bicycles, walk, jog.

Jim McCann asked how progressive was the Town in regards to being bicycle friendly, such as bike racks, etc.? Jack Harrod stated that there was talk at the plant regarding that when they were doing the 10 year plan (master plan) and as he recalled it was a kind of divisive issue because some people pointed out that half the year bike trails are unusable anyway, so why put the effort into this when it's only a six month proposition?

Bob Meck stated that the Recreation Department was sort of interested in walking paths or more correctly cross country skiing paths than biking and suggested that they talk with Chad (in that department). Mark stated that the State sponsors a bike/walk to work day every year that he would like to promote through the Energy Committee. He also stated that he couldn't think of very many businesses that had bike racks around Town. He stated that the Committee should note it as a item that they might want to promote and he suggested that they talk to the Chamber of Commerce about that. Jack Harrod stated that there was a Chamber of Commerce in Lake Sunapee.

With no more business to discuss, Mark asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn - Dave Sauerwein
Second - Jack Harrod

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is February 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Camille Holmes
Secretary, Town of New London

Reviewed by

Mark Vernon

ADDENDUM TO MEETING MINUTES:

Member	Topic	Target publication date
Anzalone	Home energy saving tips	10 Feb
Crane	Climate Change - 2	24 Feb
Harrod	Solar electric	10 Mar
Vernon	Earth Hour	24 Mar
Sauerwein	CSC Sustainability initiatives	7 Apr
Crane	Climate Change - 3	21 Apr