

New London Energy Committee

February 7, 2011

Minutes

Members Present: Jack Harrod (Chair), Mark Vernon, Joan Cobb, Peter Stanley (ex officio), Russ Aney, Margie Weathers, Bill Spear

Members Absent: Dave Sauerwein, Mike Meller, Dave Harris

Harrod noted that Sauerwein would not be at the meeting due to childcare issues. Meller would not be there due to illness. He added that it is helpful when, if members are unable to attend, they let him know ahead of time.

1. Minutes of January 3, 2011 meeting

Harrod asked if there were any amendments to the draft minutes, which he had previously circulated to the members. There were none.

**IT WAS MOVED (Mark Vernon) AND SECONDED (Bill Spear) to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2011 Energy Meeting, as circulated.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Master Plan Schedule/Energy Chapter Draft

Aney said that he has begun a re-write of the energy chapter of the Master Plan. He has printed out the other chapters to better work the energy portion into the document. Stanley said that former Town Planner Ken McWilliams did not finish the Master Plan project and they will be giving everything they have to the Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission (UVRPC) to do an overview and to make recommendations. The UVRPC will complete the Utilities and Land Use Chapters. Stanley said that he would need a version of the energy chapter very quickly. Aney said that the new version would be better and would include accomplishments the committee has made in the recent past. Harrod stressed that a version would need to be produced ASAP and that Stanley and Aney should work together to get a version to the RPC. Stanley said ideally he would like to send something to the RPC before a week has passed.

3. Energy Efficiency Community Block Grants (EECBG) status

Aney updated that a subcontractor has been selected to do the town lighting retrofit work. The subcontractor has not supplied all the required ARRA documentation, however, which will have to be turned in before they can begin working.

Harrod noted that the Micro-Hydro RFP went out and the town received nine responses, both from local and regional groups and even one from a large company from the Washington DC area. The top three will be picked for interviews. The final three have not been definitively chosen as of the time of this meeting. Harrod said that they were surprised at the interest the RFP generated. Harrod explained that the people who bid on the project called and talked to the town administrator, Ms. Levine, to see how much money they would have available to spend. The RFP was published in various papers and it was put on the town's website.

4. NHMEAP Update

Aney said that a recent snowstorm caused a postponement of the planned meeting until Wednesday the 16th of February. Someone from the SDES group will meet with Aney and they will tour the Town Office building. The town will have to cover 10% of the cost and he wondered if they should spend this fee out of the Energy Committee's budget. Harrod thought that would be appropriate and thought there was approximately \$900 available.

5. Colby-Sawyer Developments

Spear said that there would be a follow-up meeting regarding the possibility of wind turbines in New London on February 23rd. He noted that his Market Research class is currently getting ready for the meeting by covering all the principles of market research. The meeting will include Harrod, Stanley, the Board of Selectmen, Ms. Levine, Bruce King (President of New London Hospital) and Colby-Sawyer President Galligan. The "clients" (town, hospital, college) will do a short presentation to explain the project and will give some background. The students will then ask questions for 10 minutes. The students will draft a research proposal and send it back to the clients. They will come back with proposals at some point. Spear commented that they would need to find some way to randomly select participants for the study. They will develop research instruments dependent on what they think appropriate. He said that this was an extremely important meeting. Harrod noted that Ms. Levine has a US Mail distribution list and an email list they could possibly use. Spear noted that they want to use many approaches as possible to research the idea of wind power in town.

Aney asked Spear if anyone was doing an economic assessment of wind power in this area. Spear said that this would be a second step in the project. If there is resistance to the project, they may come up with something on a much smaller scale. Harrod said they are trying to get community feedback first. Spear said that the immediate second step would be to hire a consultant to install towers and mount weather instrumentation and to use computer simulation to find best wind potential. They would then do the economic study.

Spear noted they are trying not to pick a pre-determined location for the turbines and didn't think it would need to be on college property, as the best wind potential may not even be in New London itself. They will have to determine if this scenario is OK. Spear noted that the school was being very open and the location of the turbines did not need to be in the town to keep going with the project.

Aney asked who would be purchasing the power. Spear said they are not sure as of yet. They are just trying to find out if it is feasible in the community's eyes. Stanley said that the best places might be on state-owned land. Aney didn't think wind turbines would be a valid economical investment in this area. He thought perhaps the top of Mount Kearsarge or Mt. Sunapee, but the feasibility did not seem likely. He didn't think the wind resource would be high enough to attract an investor.

Spear said he would be submitting the college's energy usage numbers from last year to the American College and University Presidents' Carbon Challenge. It is not complete as of yet. Colby-Sawyer has increased its student body so some consumption has gone up, but some things have also gone down.

6. Encouraging the use of reusable shopping bags (Hannaford et al.)

Cobb reported that on January 28th she met with the manager at the New London Hannaford, Mr. Kenyon, who said that he is interested in the Energy Committee's efforts to promote the use of reusable shopping bags. He said he would like to attend a meeting and explain a bit about his interest. Mr. Kenyon explained that Hannaford does a lot of recycling, and he took all of her suggestions. Cobb wants to go back and have another meeting to firm things up more. She made a suggestion that to reduce the use of plastic water bottles, perhaps they could sell the Brita faucet attachments that screen out impurities from tap water. Mr. Kenyon said that he would do that right away. They may also add a sign suggesting that the use of such a mechanism would help reduce the use of the plastic bottles. Another suggestion Cobb made was that the clerks should know more about the reusable shopping bags, such as how much they cost. She also thought that there should be some mechanism for clerks to notice that people have brought in their own bags. Cobb felt that if clerks thanked people for bringing reusable bags in, it would help reinforce the use of them. Cobb said that she and Weathers plan to follow up with Mr. Kenyon and set up some more time to speak with him. She told Mr. Kenyon that perhaps the Energy Committee could produce an article about the changes they were proposing, with a mention of Hannaford and the store's willingness to work with the committee.

Cobb noted that she had received a note from Nick Ourusoff, who suggested finding out more about the retailers and their point of view about the use of the reusable bags. Harrod suggested meeting with the Chamber of Commerce. He also recalled the blue reusable bags that were sold in town in the past. Cobb suggested that \$5 was too much and wished there was a way to subsidize their cost. Aney suggested using a Grassroots Grant which could give them up to about \$3,000. He noted that the grant was given twice a year.

Weathers explained that at the Co-Op they use biodegradable plastic bags, which have less impact on the environment than paper bags. She thought it would be good to get Hannaford interested in this as well.

7. Power Management Policy for town electronics

Vernon thanked Spear for the comments he supplied to him on the draft document. Once he gets clarification on some of the suggestions that Spear provided, Vernon will do a final version. Aney said that they may get some further input from the SDES people on this subject.

8. "Member Minutes"

Stanley said the town has been using a lot of diesel fuel the last few months moving snow.

Weathers thought the town should use solar-powered Christmas lights next year. She used them this year and thought they were great.

Cobb asked if anyone was interested in information she had provided from Alice Sprickman regarding proposed state legislation that would end New Hampshire's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). There is a hearing on Thursday the 10th of February on RGGI. Harrod encouraged those interested to contact the state legislators or Senator Odell with their thoughts. Aney said RGGI was not a bad idea, but those who handled the funds did not do a good job administering them. He said that the energy investments by the state are significant wealth builders, and he thought someone could easily make that case.

Aney noted New London hosts New Hampshire's first solar powered brewer, the Flying Goose brewpub. GroSolar put out a press release about it which got national attention. It was in the Valley News, in the Concord Monitor, and was on the Friday evening news on the NBC station in Vermont. Aney said that the solar hot water system is up and that the solar photovoltaic electric

system is slated to go in as soon as the ground is ready. Tom Mills had been very conscientious about doing the energy efficiency work first and Aney felt it was a great case study on how to do a project like this the right way.

Aney thought the Energy Committee should make an example of this project and recognize Mr. Mills officially. The committee should recognize a business that is embracing sustainability, perhaps by giving out an award for the "New London Energy Committee's Sustainable Business of the Year." This would help the business get press and show others that such things are possible.

Aney also commented that the town and school district have lost money, and do so every day that they have to wait on the stimulus paperwork that is included in the EECBG grants from last year.

Vernon liked Aney's idea for awarding businesses and thought the committee should research other businesses that have taken energy-saving measures. Aney thought they could also showcase the runner-ups.

Spear agreed on other businesses being included in the award, as the college has done some things to save energy as well. Aney thought the award should go out on Earth Day. Spear said they could ask Stanley who in town has been taking energy-saving measures. People should submit their names to be considered. Aney thought it should be put on the website to have businesses nominated. Spear thought a commemorative plaque would be appropriate.

Stanley noted that the town's water supply is very clean and was non-chlorinated. Sometimes they have a problem with the old pipes, which need to be treated with chlorine, but overall it is very clean without impurities. Weathers said she never drank the water in town because she thought it was chlorinated.

Harrod said he would think about the action items for the award program. Aney said he would put a New London Energy Committee page on his server. If they could put a paragraph together for nominations, he would put a blog on it to contribute about best practices, not just companies.

The next meeting is scheduled be held on Monday, March 7th at 7pm.

With no other business, Harrod called for a motion to adjourn.

**IT WAS MOVED (Bill Spear) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) to adjourn the Energy Committee Meeting of February 7, 2011.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London

Reviewed by Jack Harrod
Chairman, New London Energy Committee

