

**Town of New London  
Energy Committee Meeting  
February 2, 2009**

**Present:** Mark Vernon, Jack Harrod, Bob Crane, Frank Anzalone

**Absent:** Chet Reynolds, Alice Sprickman, Dave Sauerwein, Jim McCann, Jim Moore, Mike Meller, Joan Cobb

**Observers:** Jennifer White, Jimmy Sferes

The first order of business was the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes which needed corrections and were tabled until those corrections could be clarified.

Mark stated that Earth Hour would be March 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 to 9:30, and he would have a press release put together for the March meeting and also something for the InterTown Record. Jack Harrod suggested that he add a line or two to his presentation on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Jack Harrod reported on the hour-long meeting with Robin Steiner, Assistant Superintendent for the Kearsarge School District, (with oversight responsibility for the science curriculum), that he and Alice Sprickman had with her. They spoke about a number of things: the idling policy and signage that New London was going to be putting up and Ms. Steiner related to them that the children in either Bradford or Warner (he couldn't remember which town) had made handmade signs that they put out for the school buses, asking them not to idle and she thought the children were well ahead of the effort; she also spoke with Jack and Alice regarding the landscaping project and if they expand it next year to a larger plot of ground, she said there was a possibility that they could have student volunteers work with the project as part of a service project. Mark interjected with the suggestion of expanding it to the school grounds. Jack said they talked about the energy audit at the Library (mostly just to fill her in), they talked about the Earth Hour (Lights Out) and that they could possibly distribute materials through the schools; they talked a little bit about the solar and wind materials that Chet and he had published in the InterTown Record and the Argus series that had preceded it; Alice had suggested that perhaps some of the school children could be encouraged to get involved in writing articles for the paper and apparently Robin passed this along to a fellow who teaches an English class, Dean Barker, who was going to consult with the students. The other thing that they talked with her about was who in the school system would like to be a member of this committee, she is a resident of Bradford and is ineligible. She said she sent an email to all faculty to see if there were any New London residents who were faculty members and would like to join the Energy Committee. Jack stated that he hadn't received any emails back, other than Robin's, but that at least they had a point of contact in the school system.

Mark suggested that they connect the Chamber of Commerce with the children to have them coordinate the making of signage and Bob Crane suggested that they first have the

children put them up around the school and then take the signs to the local businesses, who might then take the effort more seriously. It was determined that Alice would be the point person for the school district and the Library.

Jack asked about updates on the signs and Mark responded that Jessie had promised to get to it after Town Meeting. Mark stated that there would be stickers to hand out about idling and Jack said that when someone registered their car, for example, they would be handed one (he displayed a sample).

Mark asked about lining someone up for a presentation for the CCAP (Climate Change Action Plan) meeting in March. Jack Harrod stated that Chet had volunteered him for the electric generation and usage working group for next month and he agreed to do a little spiel in March. Chet had challenged Jack to figure out what decoupling meant and even though he had googled it, he still didn't understand what it meant. He stated that somehow if you disassociate the profit motive, more generation means more money, if you can decouple those two things then it's supposed to be more efficient, but he didn't understand exactly how that works and he will keep working on it.

Bob Crane had written an article that was published in the InterTown Record about climate change in the New London vicinity. He stated that it was interesting to see what people thought about global warming: 1) people who were not 'scientifically oriented' only knew what they had gleaned from the news media, not from any study and it looked like Republicans versus Democrats, 52% think it's real and 48% say no. he went on to say that relative to five years ago, more people thought it was real, but what they were looking at was the attitudes of people who are in the scientific community because they knew there have been some who say the models aren't good enough and is it really caused by man. The more you study it and the people who write papers on it are all agreeing that it's real and what we're doing releasing greenhouse gases is in fact the cause. Instead of 52% thinking it's real, (those who have absolutely no background in science versus those who write papers on it), 95% think it's real. He stated that there are papers written and people who think it's the sun changing and are trying to use statistics to prove that it's not man-made. Because of the recent cold snap, he thought that would be a good topic to write about and get into some of the statistics of things you could actually get from your computer just by going to the State climatology office website and go to the National Weather Service (New England Climate Portal) which lists all the stations for which we have long records. He looked up the long records to see what the coldest temperatures were and to see if this was something that happens by chance or something that climate changes foster. He stated that Concord had once gone down to -33 degrees in '84, New London had a very long record (8 years), Lebanon had a -24, Hanover -23, Mount Sunapee -18, (these were on the same day, showing that the cold moved around). He stated that these records showed a difference of only 4 or 5 degrees of coldest temperatures. The next climate change will be looking at the joint statistics of site vs. site, with changes from the maximum to the minimum. Another interesting fact was the way the data was collected. For years a maximum thermometer was used meaning that the Weather Service and cooperative observers would measure the maximum and the minimum each day and not send someone out every hour to get the temperature. They

then averaged those two temperatures and that became the average according to the Weather Service. He did it by taking the statistics of the maximum each day and the minimum each day and found that there was a large variance from day to day. In order to do statistics, the National Weather Service believes in using what they call normal values, 30 years of data, from 1971 to 2001, so this means we won't have another normal value until 2010. Now they are looking at every ten years to see if something is more stable in the value, doesn't fluctuate a lot. Concord has a 60 year record, only 58 of it coming from the climate data base, the National Weather Service has the last five years in a different location and has cobbled it together. He looked to see what the maximum and minimum averaging value was and to get enough stability, he did it by season. It turned out that we have had in a 30 year interval, a three degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature, which is about in line with the predictions some people made for this part of the world. The increase in temperature is the same for winter and summer, but with winter, there are more variables, so that the averages are: summer, three degrees plus or minus one degree and winter is three degrees plus or minus three degrees. Jack Harrod interjected that the conclusion of Bob's article was that the temperatures are increasing for the State of New Hampshire. Bob stated that what he is doing now is taking a bunch of records that are for 58 years which is Lebanon and Hanover, Concord and Keene, then Sunapee, which is 48 years, and using them as the vicinities of comparison and what the trend is and if it is similar to each other. This will be the second part of his presentation and the third part will be on precipitation. He went on to say that looking at the records of Japan (150 years with 100+ stations across the island), and look at the precipitation, only two stations had a constant, the rest were increased. He said that only because we have satellites that provide area integrated gradations, do we begin to see what's happening and that's only since the '70s.

Mark thanked Bob for his presentation and moving forward stated that there were four more InterTown articles and that Alice needed to be reminded to forward the articles to Catherine Busheuff at the Sunapee website.

Jack Harrod stated that concerning kilowatts, he believed Sandra Licks, Head Librarian, sent out to Alice a little item about a library in Maine that started a lending program of wattage meters for people to take home to measure their power intake. Alice thought it was a good idea and Sandra has agreed to implement it here; the question is how does the library get the meters? Jack asked his supplier (of solar panels) and he said he could supply the meters at a discount depending on how many the library wanted. Jack suggested 4 or 5 and stated that they run about \$45 apiece before the discount. He said that they might be available at Radio Shack and that they had a budget if they wanted to do this or they could have the Town pay for it or some public spirited citizen like himself pay for it. Mark said he liked the last idea the best. Jack said that he would do his best to get this done. Bob suggested that he try Amazon.com which was eco-friendly and had items somewhat cheaper than other resources. Mark stated that the more it was publicized the more units they would probably need, but he thought that three would be enough to start with.

Mark moved on to Town Meeting, stating that last year they had an easel, poster and

some literature that their college intern had put together and that looking at Frank Anzalone's energy tips, it would be conducive to putting together a poster which could be set up in the lobby. Mark said that he would be the go-to person to get the poster done. Frank said it should be simple, just some bullets and Mark asked him to send him some graphics on energy-saving tips.

Mark moved on to website updates and it was reiterated that Alice would be the point person to contact Linda Jackman about updating the website, in particular about the member list and adding Frank's tips.

Mark stated that he had one other thing from Jessie, regarding possible funds. They didn't have a lot of time, the timetable was Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> and he felt that they should jump on this. There was some discussion about the different interpretations of the application and distribution process. Mark stated that after re-reading it, the State distributes the carbon credits over four quarters. Bob stated that he thought there were four different periods for the awarding of the credits. Mark said that he wanted to respond to Jessie Levine that the committee was interested and to keep them posted. He also said that he wanted to advise Chet because this was something he needed to know about. Jack Harrod said maybe they could get the money for the idling signs and Mark said to submit any ideas for projects. Frank Anzalone suggested having an audit on buildings, similar to the library audit, and weatherization of buildings. The Budget Committee would be likely to agree as it would be outside money, saving the Town money, as well as saving on fuel energy costs. Mark suggested a subcommittee of two to put together the proposal; Bob Crane thought that having the whole committee work on it would be cumbersome and it was agreed that the committee would review drafts, but a subcommittee with people who were experts should do the writing. Jack Harrod stated that Mark should emphasize the public works tie-in when he responded to Jessie.

The meeting adjourned at .

Respectfully submitted,

Camille Holmes  
Secretary, Town of New London