

## **APROVED Energy Committee Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2009**

**Members Present:** Jack Harrod, Joan Cobb, Dave Sauerwein, Mark Vernon, Bob Crane, Russell Aney, Dave Harris, Bill Spear, Mike Meller

**Members Absent:** Frank Anzalone

At 7:00pm, Jack Harrod called the meeting to order.

Russ Aney asked, if a member has not participated in the committee in a long time, whether that member should really remain a part of the committee. Harrod said that while Frank Anzalone has not been present in a while, he is an architect and Harrod would like to keep him on the committee for his expertise and insight. Harrod commented that in the past, Anzalone has been very involved in the committee, especially with the Tracy Library energy audit. Harrod volunteered to query Anzalone about his future intentions.

### **Minutes of December 7th Energy Committee meeting**

Aney said that he had sent by e-mail some last-minute suggested edits of the minutes. Harrod said that generally Aney's edits were helpful and further clarified information and so he would incorporate Aney's edits into the minutes. The committee agreed that this was acceptable.

**IT WAS MOVED (David Harris) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) to approve the December 7th, 2009 Energy Committee minutes as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Master Plan schedule/energy chapter drafting**

Aney said that the Planning Board meeting went well on December 22. The Board agreed with some suggestions from Mark Vernon and others who were in attendance. Aney noted that he still had some tasks to complete with regard to the draft of the chapter. Aney added that he had been given a nearly final chapter from another section of the Master Plan as a style guideline from Town Planner Ken McWilliams, to help make the Energy Chapter look more consistent with the rest of the chapters. Aney planned to have the chapter completed by the end of the week and would then distribute it to the Energy Committee for comments. Afterwards, he would send the chapter to the Planning Board. Aney mentioned that the Planning Board was going to give the Energy Committee a byline for the Energy Chapter in the Master Plan, a unique acknowledgement.

Mark Vernon asked about the mentioning of "installation of bike racks" that was present in the list of accomplishments within the chapter. He wanted to know who installed the racks and where they were located. Aney said he wasn't sure who did them or when, but he would try to follow up.

Vernon commented that the Energy Committee should have its own action plan. He thought perhaps the chapter in the Master Plan could be a good start of a strategic plan. Harrod said that it was the intention to use the Master Plan chapter on Energy as, in effect, the Committee's strategic plan.

Aney said that part of the NHMEAP goals and conclusions includes information given to the Select Board to explain how the Town could benefit from taking certain measures with regard to energy conservation – recommendations that could also be incorporated into a strategy or action plan for the committee. Aney said he still hasn't heard if the Town would be getting a policy audit as part of the NHMEAP process. He said that if they do get the audit, it could provide information that would be useful for the Master Plan. He said he would support having an entire session dedicated to the committee's strategy. Harrod felt that once the chapter for the Master Plan was completed, it would serve as their vision. He admitted that he reacts skeptically towards things like "vision statements" as they really have no practical effects. He was hoping to be pointed in the right direction by getting the policy audit and the Energy Chapter completed for the Master Plan.

Aney said he thought they could help shape some of their thinking and activities for the future and noted that there were some grants available for local energy committees. He described the grants as being from the New England Grassroots Fund. To try and win some of the grant money, the Town would have to come up with a reasonable proposal and submit it.

### **“Button Up NH” Results**

Harrod noted that both “Button Up NH” DVDs at the library were being checked out, as were the wattage meters. He added that a “Button-Up” workshop was planned in Concord with Rob Werner (Concord city councilman), according to a brief article in the Concord Monitor. Harrod noted again that New London was the very first town in New Hampshire to have hosted such a workshop. Mike Meller felt that the New London workshop, conducted by Bob Walker, was one of the better workshops on the topic that he had seen.

### **NHMEAP; January 19 Meeting with the Board of Selectmen**

Aney explained that on January 19, he would be meeting with the New London Board of Selectmen. He explained that the people from Clean Air/Cool Planet want to make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen to ensure a level of understanding and commitment from them regarding the NHMEAP program. In essence, they want to request that the Town sign up and step up to support the program. Laura Chesnut, a Dartmouth employee and intern at Clean Air/Cool Planet, is serving as the liaison between the Town and Clean Air/Cool Planet and would be attending the meeting with the Selectmen. Aney noted again that the meeting would be on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Aney asked about the possibility of a Colby-Sawyer student being found to work on the data entry part of the project. Dave Sauerwein said that once the students have returned from the winter break, he would look into this further.

Bill Spear said that the students in the “SIFE” program at Colby-Sawyer may also be able to generate some help for the Town on this project. He noted they would be kicking off a program called “Recycle Mania” at the college and he said he would send an email to the group again asking for help. Students don’t return to campus until January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sauerwein said that Jennifer White, Sustainability Coordinator at the college, agreed to look at the Master Plan chapter as well. Harrod noted that Ms. White had attended the “Button Up NH” workshop, and had also spoken with the people from Cool Air/Clean Planet about putting together a workshop on campus for students.

Aney said there was opportunity for participation for all, not just the students. Aney added he would work with Ms. Chesnut on their presentation, and would probably also be talking about the lighting audits at the meeting. He indicated that he had just received the lighting report from the second lighting vendor. The Selectmen could now see the comparisons between the two vendors.

### **Energy Matters Articles for the Intertown Record**

Harris said he may have a volunteer from the Concord Energy Committee to write an article about native plantings, but that wouldn’t be until spring. Vernon felt an article about the lighting audit would be good. Aney said that something that would point readers to the Energy Chapter of the Master Plan would be nice, as long as the Planning Board would agree.

### **EECBG**

Harrod said that the grant applications were supposed to be available on January 8th. Aney explained that in one week an “intention to bid” letter would need to be submitted. Under consideration are the renovations at Tracy Library, the lighting audit co-pay, and the school district proposal, which the school board is taking the lead on. The school board rewrote their warrant article for \$2.9 million dollars worth of funding which would be contingent on not only obtaining school building aid funds from the State (offsetting up to 60% of the project) but upon getting the EECBG grant. Aney explained that this will put pressure on the school board to write a good grant proposal. Aney said the main questions include how much to ask for and what else they will need to incorporate into the proposals to get the funds. He said that they are currently looking at an installed cost for energy-saving measures of roughly

\$750,000 to be shared by all seven towns. The grant money would reduce that amount, and each town's share would probably be in proportion to how much it contributes to the school district. Mr. Noyes, KRSD Facilities Director, and Honeywell, the energy services contractor, will be working with Aney to put together the grant proposal with Aney. They want to have one prime contact that will be the recipient of the grant that they interface with on the common project. All seven towns in the school district would be sharing in the benefit of the money but how it would be divided would be determined after the RFP has gone out.

Aney explained that New London's share is more than its pro rata share, and would probably be about 30%, which is similar to what the Town pays to the school district.

Aney added that the administrator of the EECBG grants was TRC Inc. He thought they were well qualified and professional. He wasn't sure who would be making the actual grant decisions, speculating that it would be some form of collaboration between TRC and the NH Office of Energy and Planning (OEP).

Vernon asked if New London received grant money and other towns did not, whether there would be any contention. Aney said he was not sure how it would be handled. He thought that either all seven towns would be funded – i.e. the project would be funded -- or they would not. As a town, New London could only request up to \$400,000 total for all projects proposed. New London may submit several grant applications for projects, as well as their portion of the school district proposal. He wasn't sure exactly how it would be handled, but he said that he was told they would try not to penalize school districts for being multi-town entities.

Aney said that the Town could request money for anyone within the Town to make upgrades for qualifying or eligible projects. He said money could even be given to the hospital or the college. Bill Spear asked if GDS from Manchester, NH was going to be utilized for the audit. He noted that he had recently had his house audited using GDS and explained that PSNH picked up the tab for it. Aney said that, unfortunately, PSNH does not audit commercial buildings for free. He noted that there were some free commercial energy audits offered by DRED.

Sauerwein asked what sorts of projects could be submitted to try and win grant money. Aney said that they would look for something innovative and something that was more than just a stand-alone project. It should be something that could be used to attract the attention of others and hopefully cause spillover effects. Something that has a very good energy-savings return on investment would also be good. Sauerwein said he would contact Aney if he could pinpoint an appropriate project on campus. He said that Jennifer White may have something already in mind in this regard.

Aney said the final decision would be made in March and the availability of the money would probably be sometime in April. He said that the funds must be committed by March 12<sup>th</sup> and that the grant administrators are moving quickly. He noted that they would have six months to distribute funds and they would have a few years in which to spend them.

Harris asked about funding and if it could be put towards the College's swimming pool heating efforts. Aney said that swimming pools are excluded. Projects have to be of more general benefit and easily demonstrable to the public.

Aney went on to opine that the micro hydro project for the Elkins dam may not prove to be feasible. He talked with Richard Lee (Public Works Director) about the flow at Pleasant Lake. He said that there is a very low flow now, and even in the late summer it is low due to evaporation. Aney said the biggest expense associated is the feasibility study, licensing and permitting paperwork. He said that it may be more challenging because new hydro facilities do not qualify for renewable energy certificates in New Hampshire. Oddly, the state does not define new hydroelectric power generation as a renewable energy source. While there was a chance of getting the legislature to change this, Aney didn't believe it would make it through in this session, but perhaps in the next one. Aney said that he had the watershed data and is trying to get the dam data in Concord. He still wants to take some pictures of the existing conditions of the dam for a hydrology engineer who has agreed to provide an initial free assessment of whether there is sufficient potential power generation in Elkins to proceed with the expense of a formal feasibility study.

A letter of intent is the next action item with regards to the EECBG grant applications.

**NLEC logos/graphics**

Vernon brought a few samples of various renditions of a Committee logo. Aney suggested using an oval (in stead of rectangular) shape to emphasize the arrows and the cycle. He also suggested maybe making the "E" a lower-case "e" that would look like an energy meter. Spear said the he liked the graphics included in the version with the windmill and the sun because it caught his attention. Some felt the extra graphics made the logo look too busy.

**Other Business:**

Harris said they have some bids for the pricing for the library window replacements and that they would be setting up a meeting to look at all of the bids. He said that GDS would do the energy savings projections from the planned retrofits. Aney said that GDS would create a model of the library to represent a baseline of current energy consumption. They would then be able to change walls, windows and other aspects of the building model to calculate how changes would affect energy consumption.

Harris said that since the last meeting, they found the cost to refurbish the windows to be high. One bid came back with a figure of \$62,000 to do 39 windows. He said that he has asked the remaining bids to come in with the cost for the windows to be separated from the rest of the work. Mr. Harrison said that they would have more information in the next week, regarding bids.

Harris went on to talk about a project he was thinking of planning. He said that in October, he'd like to have a Green Building open house. He felt that if the group, as a committee, really promoted the one-day event, it would be a way to have the public think of alternative energy as common instead of something out of reach. He said that if they could get everyone who uses alternative energy in their houses within 5-10 miles of New London to participate, they could market it to the community. Harris opined that most people don't know how many homes have things such as solar panels. This would help to bring awareness to the community that alternative energy is a possibility.

Harrod said that last year none of the houses in the open house were in New London but were in other neighboring towns. Spear said that he would be happy to include his home in the event. Aney said that if they were trying to help New London to promote alternative energy, it wouldn't hurt to bring people to other towns to look at things that could be done in their own town. Harris added that they could have a public area, such as the town green/common, to showcase vendors from Green Energy businesses. It was thought that this could be called a sort of "Green Fair." Aney suggested they may be able to get sponsorship from area vendors like R.P. Johnson, Clarke's Hardware and LaValley's. Harris said that they could hand out maps to the open homes and create it as a one-day event.

Harris said he had his house open to the public about three years ago and only about eight people came. Harrod said he has had people call him to look at what he has done with his own house (solar p.v. panels).

Aney felt maybe the vendor day could be the weekend before or after the open house, as it is a busy weekend for them. Harrod said that he believed both Walpole and Plymouth have had Green Fairs and that perhaps the Committee could get some tips from them. Harris said he'd like to get a list together of jobs that would need to be done to get the event going. Spear volunteered to work with him on the project.

Harrod proposed that the next meeting of the Energy Committee be on Monday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m.

**IT WAS MOVED (David Sauerwein) AND SECONDED (Bill Spear) to adjourn the Energy Committee meeting of January 4, 2009. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London

Reviewed by Jack Harrod

Chairman, NLEC

