

APPROVED Energy Committee Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2010

Members Present: Jack Harrod (Chair), Mark Vernon (Vice Chair), Peter Stanley (Zoning Board Administrator), Russell Aney, Joan Cobb, Bill Spear, Bob Crane, Dave Harris

Members Absent: Frank Anzalone, Mike Meller, Dave Sauerwein

Also Present: Margie Weathers, New London Resident

Jack Harrod called the **MEETING TO ORDER at 7:00pm.**

1. Minutes of May 3, 2010 Meeting - Harrod asked if the minutes from the last meeting were acceptable to those committee members who were present. Not hearing any suggestions for amendments, he asked for a motion.

IT WAS MOVED (Dave Harris) AND SECONDED (Mark Vernon) to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2010 Energy Committee meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Master Plan Schedule/Energy Chapter – Russ Aney said that he would put the final touches on the chapter and wanted to distribute it to Energy Committee members for any comments or suggestions. He explained that there had been some things added to the chapter over the past few months that were not present in the initial draft. Harrod suggested that topics like the micro-hydro study and the other EECBG grants should be incorporated.

3. Municipal Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) Status – Harrod said that he read in the InterTown Record about the presentation Aney and Laura Chesnut (Clean Air-Cool Planet) gave to the Board of Selectmen. Aney said that the meeting went well. Although he was late, Ms. Chesnut went ahead and gave a broad overview of what was going on with the project. From the data compiled, they were able to discern that the Town was not doing that badly with regard to energy consumption, in relation to other towns and states in the nation. He said that it wasn't quite clear as to which building would be chosen for the energy audit, which is part of the MEAP program. Whipple Hall, their assumed pick, may not be chosen due to the fact that the building is not fully occupied now that the District Court has left. He said it wasn't quite clear as to what the audit will cover, exactly. He thought perhaps strategic opportunities for renewable energy options could be one direction they might venture towards. Aney said that he hadn't heard from the folks at MEAP yet as to the next step.

Harrod said that he read in the InterTown article that the town spends about 20% less on fuel for town vehicles than other towns and municipalities in the state. Aney said that this is mostly due to the fact that New London outsources bussing, and so the figures for bussing are not included in the analysis. He commented that it is hard to determine specific energy and fuel usages in the town, including the regular energy usages of each building with the calculating tool they use. All the electricity in the town is counted within one figure, and not broken down by building.

4. Energy Efficiency Community Block Grants (EECBG) – Aney said they are still fighting with the ARA rules and restrictions on this. The responsibility for administering each of the three grants was given to Shelley Hatfield. The school district will have to put out an RFP. They are still hung up on the lighting project and the need to submit an RFP for it. They have not put an RFP out for the micro-hydro project yet. Aney said he got a call from someone who learned about the project due to the InterTown article, so he hopes to get multiple bids for the project.

5. Colby-Sawyer Developments – Dave Sauerwein was not present at the meeting, so this item was not covered. Bill Spear said he could not comment either. Aney commented that he met with Jessie Levine and Jennifer White about how the town and college could collaborate on sustainability activities. They are looking for ways to engage not only the town, but the whole Kearsarge area. Some suggestions on things

they could work together on were the single-stream recycling idea, and town composting (trying to set up a program so the town could compost waste on a regular basis). It was noted that Springledge Farm currently takes some waste in the fall and winter (e.g. Christmas trees), but they would like to turn this into a slightly more formal program.

Ms. White had said that she was interested in ideas. Harrod commented that she was creative, determined and capable. Ms. Levine said in that meeting that the town hopes to collaborate more with the college on these sorts of things. The current president of the college has helped to strengthen the relationship with the town and she would like to encourage that growth.

Mark Vernon thought it would be good for Ms. White to come to an Energy Committee meeting. Harrod noted that Ms. White is over-worked and since Sauerwein was already on the committee, it wasn't necessary to have two representatives from the college. She is, however, welcome to attend if she is able. Harrod commented that even though she is not part of the committee meetings, she is still involved with the efforts put forth by the committee.

6. Green Fair Update – Harris said the organizers need to get moving on this project. They plan to meet twice per month, besides the regular Energy Committee meetings. They are looking for volunteers to do some of the work that will need to be done. Harris wondered where they could put the money they receive from vendors to hold their spaces in the fair. Harrod reminded him that he had suggested at the last NLEC meeting working with the town Recreation Committee, to use their revolving fund. Peter Stanley said that they can't use a personal account but that it has to be a third party or of another entity of the town.

Bill Spear said that he would get the application permit to Harrod so that they could submit it to the town to use the green. They plan to charge \$150 for each vendor to use an 8' x 10' area. Harrod said they need to make sure it was made clear that there would be no profit made from this event, as the green cannot be used for profit-making activities. Spear went on to explain that vendors would be responsible for their own tables. He said they don't have the cost of electricity figured yet per 15 amp circuit, in case any vendors wanted to demonstrate something that would necessitate electricity. Spear commented that if they don't have enough vendors/money by August 1st, they will scrap the project. They currently have four people signed up but have only contacted five. So far the vendors who will participate are: Grow Solar, Colby-Sawyer College, Clean Air – Cool Planet, and Dartmouth Motors.

Stanley said there is a person on Everett Park who put in a geothermal system who may be interested in sharing her experience. He thought her name was Nan Putnam. It is a new house, and Ms. Weathers noted it was of the closed loop sort. Stanley explained that they were very happy with the system.

Harris said the "green fair" organizers would like to include all towns 12 miles beyond New London. A map will be made to include locations of places where installations of energy-saving devices/systems have been made.

Spear said that PSNH, Clean Air, and the NH Sustainability Association will be contacted. Aney said that there aren't that many installations that have been done around this area and that they should call all of the installers to see if they would like to participate. He suggested letting them know that the fair was going to be more than just about solar. He said that he would help identify some installers to call. He thought that while contacting them about their past installations, it would be a good time to ask them if they would be interested in participating in the fair by having their own table. Aney explained that there weren't many fairs like this in the state and that they should go into the planning with efforts to consider

it a statewide event, not just a Kearsarge-area event. Aney said the NH Electric Co-op and PSNH should be contacted for charitable donations. He knows the managers of funds for those organizations and said he would work with them to contact the right individuals. He figured that each of these organizations would be good for \$500 - \$1,000 each. Aney said that he'd like to see a 50'x100' tent and felt confident that they would not have to scrap the project. He thought it could be very well-attended.

Harris said that Gro-Solar had a privacy issue with disclosing where they have made installations. Aney suggested putting something in the Kearsarge Shopper asking people if they would be willing to share their own installation stories. Harrod suggested that the InterTown could also be a good outlet for this request. Ms. Levine could also send it out to the people on her email list.

Ms. Weathers said that she was interested in getting involved with the fair. She had thought of starting her own event, and Jennifer White suggested she talk to the Energy Committee, as she knew something similar was already in the works. Weathers' plan was to have a Green Fair challenging businesses in town to adopt greener practices. Each business could show how it has turned "greener". Read Clarke of Clarke's Hardware said he was interested in participating and suggested inviting companies like Seventh Generation to send a representative. (Seventh Generation makes biodegradable items and cleaning products that are green.) The representatives could come and explain why using their product was better than other commercial-brand products. They could have enticing displays. She said that she hasn't gone any further than planning the event in her mind, but has talked to both Read and Tally Jones. Tally could have a booth with hemp clothing or bamboo clothing to show people in town about alternative choices. Weathers said she was amazed at how people in the town do not know about these types of choices.

Harris said he doesn't want to lose the aspect of the economics of using renewable energy resources. There are both environmental and economic costs that are involved, but most people act with the economic side in mind.

Weathers said it would be a good idea to have a list from each vendor of how its products are more economical, and have criteria for each display. They could show that their products may be more expensive, but that using them does save money overall and they work just as well as or better than other commercial products. Harrod said he was glad Weathers was with them in the planning of the fair.

Harris said he would talk with Spear over the next few days to figure out the jobs needed for the work on the rest of the project. His goal would be to meet the 1st and the 15th of the month. He suggested meeting at his house for an hour or less to discuss where they were and where they need to move in the next few weeks.

Harris said they had been talking about how to utilize students in the event. One idea was to have a tire pressure area where the students could test peoples' tire pressure. They could fill the tires to the appropriate pressure and do an analysis of the savings that could result by keeping proper pressure in their tires.

Another idea is to do something similar to PSNH's energy analysis of peoples' homes by using their Home Heating Index. That would help determine how efficient a home is by analyzing the fuel used and the square footage of the home. People who come to the fair may want to have this analysis done, but not have the necessary data with them. They could be given an opportunity to contact a student later on to give them the information and then the student(s) will figure out their home's energy efficiency.

One other idea they came up with was having a booth that would showcase bicycles and how they can provide transportation. If they have three or four shops share a booth, students could talk about electric

bikes, and the electric bike retrofit that Outspokin' can do. They could also have maps or brochures that show bicycle routes in the area to get people thinking about how they could use their bikes more.

Spear thought that something else students may be able to help with was that if people came through the fair and seemed interested in doing something in their homes, like programmable thermostats, but don't know how to install or program them, a student could do this for them. He explained that installing such thermostats was not a dangerous installation and they could also provide a small card explaining how to program it for future use. He said that he was trying to think about things that could be done that would go beyond the actual fair day.

Aney said he thought there were a lot of vendors out there who would like to replace windows and sell more installation and that currently, tax credits for these items are available to consumers. He thought that these types of vendors should also be contacted. He would help brainstorm for these types of vendors.

Spear wondered who the town would use to run electricity to the area for vendors who may need it. Aney suggested checking with Richard Lee.

Those working on the fair agreed to meet at 7pm Tuesday the 15th at Harris' home.

7. Statewide Local Energy Solutions Conference, June 19 – Spear and Harris are not able to attend. Harrod said he may go although it looked like a repeat of last year. Joan Cobb said she wanted to go to the conference but was waiting to see who else was going. Harrod said the natural gardening area she had been involved in at the town transfer station looked wonderful. Others on the committee agreed. Aney said this could be a topic that is also included in the fair.

8. Strategic Agenda (Mark Vernon's discussion paper) – Vernon said the subcommittee created was himself, Cobb, and Spear. They hope to have a three-year plan in place by this fall to share with the Energy Committee. The focus will be an internal operation-type document to help them do a better job. Harrod applauded this effort.

9. Future Meetings – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 6th at 7pm due to the official holiday on Monday, July 5. The August meeting will be held on August 2nd at 7pm. The September meeting will be held September 13th at 7pm due to the Labor Day holiday.

10. Other Business – Vernon said the last "No Idling" sign is up at the Elkins Post Office. Dave Sauerwein has contacted him about some other locations for signs. Vernon said he would contact Bob Brown about making more signs.

Vernon said he wanted to talk to Richard Lee and Jessie Levine about putting up some bike racks at the Town Office.

He thought it would be a good idea to allocate money for a bike rack out of the Energy Committee's funds. Vernon said he would be making some hitching posts for free but couldn't find any racks for less than \$100. Aney suggested creating a contest in town for a creative and inexpensive design. He also thought that perhaps any extra money generated from the green fair could be used to purchase racks. Aney thought that putting a rack on the green or between the Town Offices and the gazebo would help to encourage biking in the area. Vernon thought a rack at Colonial Plaza would be good.

Harris noted that some patrons from the library voiced their annoyance at being “told” (from the “No Idling” signs) to turn off their vehicles. An information sheet has been prepared to help the library staff explain the rationale for the sign.

IT WAS MOVED (Vernon) AND SECONDED (Harris) to adjourn the Energy Committee meeting of June 7, 2010. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London

Reviewed by Jack Harrod

Chairman, NLEC