

Energy & Water Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2008
5:00 PM

Attendees: Town Manager Sutton, Roger Stephenson, Lutz Wallem, Samantha Berreondo, Jay Polimeno, WT Bishop, Marty Robbins, Dennis Ducharme, Paul Kasianchuk, Jim Spanos, Rick Kelley, Paul Beaudin, Mike Cosgriff, Edwin Freddie and Susan Chenard

Town Manager Sutton opened the meeting, stating that he would be meeting with Bill Johnstone of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative the next day to do an energy audit of town buildings, and that Marty Robbins would be chairing that sub-committee. Then he introduced Roger Stephenson from the Carbon Coalition as this evening's main speaker. Mr. Stephenson gave a brief history of his background; his degrees in Zoology received at the University of New Hampshire, his work with League of Voters and Bruce Babbitt in Washington DC, then back to New Hampshire, where he worked with Jackson, Jackson and Wagener, then opened his own company and finally started to work with a client, Clean Air Cool Plant. As introductions were made around the table, Dennis Ducharme mentioned that he is on a greening for resorts committee in Washington DC, and Jay Polimeno and Samantha Berreondo mentioned their work with Lin-Wood School's Future Business Leaders of America greening program here in the Lincoln-Woodstock Area.

Mr. Stephenson started his presentation by saying we had a "soup sandwich", which sounds good but is very hard to get your hands around, much like the 92 local energy committees being formed around the state. Each has its own direction and set up, from being formed by members of, or being appointed by, the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, Forest and Lands Committee or just be some concerned citizens. Focuses range from strictly municipal buildings to strictly residential to others, like ours, which focus on the whole community.

After showing us several other towns' mission statements, Mr. Stephenson helped us set up one of our own, by asking us a series of questions, such as, "Should our energy committee focus on just Lincoln, or also include Woodstock, or focus on a larger region?". A mission statement should communicate what we're about to new members as they join and guide the committee as it meets new hurdles. Goals should be few in number, and objectives should measure success, and therefore need to be specific, measurable and achievable. They could focus on transportation, heating, fuel or electricity use, or they could focus on business, residential or municipal members of the community. Mr. Stephenson noted that it was inspirational to see Samantha Berreondo, president of the senior class FBLA, attend this meeting. Obviously, it's great to see the future represented, but he also mentioned that there really is no wrong reason to save energy, as the result is still good. He mentioned a city where many street light bulbs had been replaced, saving the city over \$100,000 in electric costs each year, which could then be used towards other city expenditures.

Town Manager Sutton explained that this Energy and Water Conservation Committee had been set up by the Lincoln selectmen, but they would be happy to have Woodstock join us, especially as the Chamber of Commerce and school system serve both communities already.

Mr. Stephenson finished his presentation by showing a list of local energy committees and their contact people, as well as pointing out helpful websites, such as www.CarbonCoalition.org and www.NHEnergy.org. He also pointed out helpful groups like the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, looking to give out grants and loans for things like energy audits, inventory, part-time assistant's, etc. in the amount of \$500-2000. The NH Carbon Challenge is geared towards residents, while ICLEI wants to work with local governments like ours. The Jordan Institute offered many resources itself. Shubhada Kambli from the EPA is another great resource, and she will be speaking to our group on April 16th.

During the question and answer period, Mr. Bishop asked if bylaws were needed, and Mr. Stephenson replied that he didn't feel they were necessary at this point. He suggested, "Keep the minutes public, put someone in charge, be kind and get things done." Minutes will be posted on the Energy and Water Conservation Committee's webpage at <http://www.lincolnnh.org/government/EnergyWaterConservationCommittee.htm> and emailed to the group. A chairman will be elected at the next meeting. Marty Robbins asked what the most common project/popular project was that new committees undertook after setting up. Mr. Stephenson said that usually it takes about a year for a plan to get adopted, but some of the first steps would be an audit or inventory of electricity, transportation, heating or fuel use, building by building. Mr. Bishop asked who would review the energy plan and Mr. Stephenson replied it could be anyone we chose, such as the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board, etc. Rick Kelley pointed out that simple things and good habits, even on little things like turning the light off when you leave a room, can really make a difference.

Mr. Polimeno asked that we come up with a mission statement before the meeting ended. Starting with a combination of Franconia's and Center Harbor's, and including the creation of guidelines, the group came up with the following:

It is the mission of the Lincoln Woodstock Energy Committee:

- To determine local actions the towns can take to save energy and reduce emissions.
- to establish guidelines to decrease our energy use and to supply our energy needs using sustainable resources;
- to educate the communities on energy use and using sustainable resources;
- to implement best practices in municipal government, and
- to promote these practices with residents, community organizations, and businesses

After establishing that the next meeting is set for 5pm on March 19th, that a chairman will be picked at that time, and that Jay Polimeno will speak with Woodstock about joining the Community Energy and Water Conservation Committee, the meeting adjourned.