Energy & Water Conservation Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2008
5:00 PM

Attendees: Ed Fredie, Shubhada Kambli, WT Bishop, Michael Provencher, Bill Johnstone, Lutz Wallem, Paul Kasianchuk, Jimmy Spanos

Chairman Ed Fredie introduced Michael Provencher, a 10th grade intern, who will be assisting the committee, and Shubhada Kambli, of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ms. Kambli gave a PowerPoint presentation, explaining the Energy Challenge the Town of Lincoln has joined. Through it, the Town agrees to benchmark the energy use of public buildings, schools and wastewater treatment plants, and commits to reduce that energy use by at least 10%. In exchange, EPA gives technical assistance and portfolio assistance, offering a larger network of support. One looks at energy performance to cut waste, save money, and limit emissions. The Energy Star program provides environmental leadership through superior energy performance and tools like www.energystar.gov. Energy Star has 3 sections: consumer products, new homes and existing buildings. She wondered how many buildings we were benchmarking, which is something we will need to decide. One can't manage what one doesn't measure. Therefore, the EPA Energy Performance Rating system was created. This measures not only how many "MPG" aka kBtu/sf/yr are used, but for what kind of building; what is done there, what's the weather been like, etc. Lincoln will be using Portfolio Manager to see how our buildings compare to other similar buildings.

Ms. Kambli asked about energy retrofits that had been done so far. Bill Johnstone, of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, said that the school has done retrofits, the town hall is fairly new, and the Lincoln Police Department has motion detectors to turn off lights when no-one is in the room. The Community Center has 3 new Energy Star boilers, but the roof needs insulation, which will happen this summer. Lutz Wallem would like every building to have a percentage/number posted as to how energy efficient it is. WT Bishop mentioned an infrared checker, which reads the energy emissions of buildings. Some fire stations have some, and he wondered if Lincoln did, and it could be used for that purpose. The committee decided that the Town Hall, Community Center and School are good candidates for benchmarking.

Ms. Kambli next asked about our plan of action. Chairman Fredie explained that we have a mission statement, and will be creating subcommittees to work towards the steps. Ms. Kambli said she could help with an action plan. First, we would need all fuel bills, square footage, zip code, and amount of office space per building.

Mr. Johnstone explained the savings opportunities available through the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC), that the NHEC has a rebate program for buildings like the community center, and that these savings opportunities are often "fuel blind", not just electric related. He explained Smarts program as well. Mr. Bishop asked about the streetlights that are on during the day, and Mr. Johnstone explained this meant the

photocell was bad. He suggested citizens call the pole number in to the town hall, who would relay the information to the NHEC.

Ms. Kambli explained that a Building Upgrade Manual was available online too, describing inexpensive to most expensive projects one could undertake. She also showed a link to the Rebate Finder.

Part of the Energy Challenge is to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. This way we would gain recognition and get awards. She suggested we see the video on the community energy challenge webpage. Trainings are available there too, as well as fact sheets, webinars, etc. Mr. Bishop asked about after hours training, and she explained that self-paced modules are available too. Chairman Fredie thanked Ms. Kambli for giving an excellent presentation.

Mr. Wallem asked about compact fluorescent bulbs, which he was told were dangerous and if they break, you should leave the building for a half hour. Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Spanos explained that the old tubes have even more mercury.

Chairman Fredie explained that he would now like to set up sub-committees to look at the different parts of conservation. Mr. Bishop has agreed to chair the water resources sub-committee. Mr. Spanos volunteered to chair the local education committee. Marty Robbins was suggested as a good person to push forward the Energy Challenge, as he had been with the NHEC on the walk-through energy audit. Chairman Fredie suggested sending out invitations for everyone to join one of these committees. Mr. Kasianchuk will pass this information on throughout InnSeason resorts, as he has heard from some people very interested in the water conservation aspect. Mr. Bishop said he could have someone come up to do a water presentation, but it was decided we should wait until later this year.

Mr. Johnstone said the NHEC would come up and help on an education piece. He mentioned the NHEC annual meeting is on June 21st at Loon Mountain, the first one outside of Plymouth. The NHEC is also sponsoring a NH Municipal Energy Committees Forum on Tuesday, June 3rd, in Meredith at Church Landing. There is no charge to attend this event which will run from 6pm to 8 pm, with dinner provided. Please RSVP with him.

Although the group usually meets on Wednesdays, the next meeting was scheduled for *Thursday, May 29th at 5pm*, due to a scheduling conflict. The committee should plan to meet in subcommittees and begin plans, so it would be a working session.