

Energy and Water Conservation Committee
January 21, 2009 - 5:00 pm

Attending: Chairman Lutz Wallem, Debbie O'Connor, Roz Lowen, Tom Smith, Dave Beaudin, Bob Foisy, Paul Kasianchuk (later) and Secretary Susan Chenard

As most of tonight's attendees had not been present at the last meeting, Chairman Wallem chose not to submit previous meeting minutes for approval at the beginning of the meeting, but did review past activities for new members. He explained that the focus of this committee is more for conservation of water and energy use, rather than focusing on a carbon footprint, etc. He would like to see more educational meetings, if possible, but felt advertising for the last one had not been enough. Mr. Foisy noted that he came tonight due to the press release in the newspaper.

Chairman Wallem reviewed how Mr. Beaudin had asked that the jump at the Kanc Rec ski area not be made of treated water, but the costs to construct it of earth or lumber were apparently too expensive. The budget committee dealt with this issue, explaining that we had no intentions of closing the Kanc, and plan to keep the slopes open as usual. Then the 100 or so people that had attended the budget committee meeting shifted their attention to rebuilding the towrope hut at the top of the slope. The budget committee suggested \$10,000 to repair it, but a warrant article was petitioned to build a new one for about \$40,000. So the Chairman felt that Mr. Beaudin's message was heard. Mr. Beaudin explained that the Kanc started with 1 gun and 100 hours. They then added a gun and doubled the hours, bringing the snowmaking hours to 400. Later they added yet another gun (3 altogether) and brought the hours to 300 per gun, so now we have 900 hours of snowmaking. The original plan was for 100 hours of snowmaking, allowing the Kanc to open for Christmas week, and then relying on natural snow beyond that. He explained the cost of 200,000 gallons of water for the jump alone. This year, 200 hours of snowmaking (per gun) was the goal, but the Kanc is still using 3 million gallons of water. This is the same volume as last year. Annual water creation for the Town of Lincoln is an average of about 15 million gallons per month. Mr. Beaudin explained that the Town of Woodstock charges twice a year for 24,000 base gallons each time. Three million gallons would serve 60 houses for a year. Chairman Wallem noted that at the budget meeting, someone in the audience asked about raising the cost of tickets slightly and most of the rest seemed fine with that.

Paul Kasianchuk arrived at 5:18pm. He said that the Public Relations committee is looking for more people. Several had expressed interest to him, but had not been able to attend today.

Chairman Wallem reported that he spoke with someone who distributes a 4-foot diameter windmill and will be sending information for a future meeting. Dave Beaudin asked if the Town has regulations against them. The consensus was that this was probably not the case. Mr. Foisy said that windmills are typically 100 feet tall, so height may be an issue, particularly when something fails on it. Ms. Lowen said most places don't have enough constant wind anyhow.

The group turned to the agenda items:

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1. There was a discussion of how to create more interest in an educational meeting. Ms. O'Connor suggested information could be provided at Town Meeting and the school district meeting. Tom Smith suggested also providing a signup sheet. If a large number responded, we could again use the community center, and if it was a small group, we could have them attend a monthly meeting. Everyone felt these were great ideas. We should also create a survey to see what people are interested in. Mr. Kasianchuk has another news release to be approved at the next meeting. This could be put in the newspaper before Town Meeting. He will need an action photo, either of a windmill, or the thermal imaging camera in use.
2. Regarding the thermal imaging camera, Fire Chief Nate Haynes needs to be consulted and the Selectmen will need to come up with a fee for the use of the camera.
3. There was a discussion of the NHEC (New Hampshire Electric Cooperative) lack of response on audits and work. Tom Smith would like to see a list of whom they actually helped. Ms. O'Connor reported that the school has seen a definite cost savings with the lighting project there. Bob Tortorice was someone that Roz Lowen suggested in place of the NHEC. He had presented at a recent energy fair north of the Notch.
4. Discussions of the Budget Committee and Kanc were noted above.
5. Rob Burbank of the AMC could talk about the Carbon Challenge. There was discussion whether he should come to a future meeting or if the Carbon Coalition wasn't deeper than where the committee wanted to go. The committee is focused more on practical, simple solutions. Mr. Smith would like to see us accomplish something, and Chairman Wallem responded that we did two things already, in changes such as the community center insulation and reduced energy/water costs at the Kanc. In discussing education for conservation, Ms. Lowen said the AMC had a presentation of practical things, and felt the school children could disseminate this. Ms. O'Connor said she would be happy to listen to the presentation. There was further discussion of Town Meeting information dissemination, by potentially having shifts of people manning a presentation at the day and night sessions.
6. Ken Osgood had a stroke right before Christmas and could not attend this evening. His scope of vision is currently very narrow, but maybe Chairman Wallem could meet with him to discuss the information he had regarding insulation at the school, etc. and present most of it. Then Mr. Osgood could speak up to correct or add to this. Mr. Foisy was interested in information on new heating systems that save more energy. Chairman Wallem wondered about having Robinson present on this, including things one can do to improve efficiency on the current equipment. Mr. Smith and Mr. Foisy discussed the pros and cons of anti-freeze, glycol or water only for heating efficiency or frozen pipes during loss of power. It is important to turn water off if one will be gone for a longer period or when pipes are frozen, so any leak would be what is left in the pipes. They also recommended chimney cleaning, including a draft check.
7. Becky Noseworthy was not present but had told Ms. Chenard that she did not use the SunHeat heaters after all. Ms. Noseworthy was told that they cost several

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hundred dollars per month, and with the lower oil cost, this did not make monetary sense.

8. Other business:

- Chairman Wallem had recently met with the community action program. If two people have a combined income of \$2930 or less, they could qualify for \$600 for the heating season. CAP also helps with electric bills, with a maximum income of \$2100. This could be information distributed at Town Meeting as well.
- Ms. Lowen brought in information on NHEC rebates for photovoltaic applications and windmills. This too could be mentioned at Town Meeting.
- Mr. Kasianchuk made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 19, 2008. Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2008. Both votes were unanimous.
- Mr. Smith discussed House Bill 189, voted on today, whereby people must be appointed by the Selectmen to a local energy committee. Starting terms would be 1 to 3 years, followed by staggered 3-year terms. These appointments would make our committee a more official advisory committee. Mr. Foisy and Ms. Lowen actually both served on local conservation commissions in their previous towns of residence.
- Dave Beaudin gave an overview of the water budget. His typical water budget is \$300,000, and \$130,000 of that amount is energy costs. He noted that we are pumping water twice; once to the Forest Ridge tank, where it flows to the base of the Kanc, then back up to the snow guns as there is not enough pressure to just go down from the tank. Mr. Beaudin felt we should have limited the number of gallons of water used, rather than just the hours. Mr. Smith suggested gauging by snowfall. The Kanc only needs to be open until the 1st or 2nd week of March. Ms. Lowen explained that we do need a snow base for rain absorption. Mr. Beaudin says the Kanc used up their budgeted hours already, and won't be able to use them later. Chairman Wallem explained that they need to save some for December too, as it is the same fiscal year.
- Mr. Smith contacted the Boscawen Newsvine, a local newsletter there that contains meeting minutes, and department happenings, and is paid for by local advertising. He is waiting to hear back on how that works.

The next meeting was scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday in February, February 18th at 5pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17pm.