

Energy and Water Committee meeting
June 18, 2008
5:00 pm

Attendees: WT Bishop, David Martin, Dave Beaudin, Paul Kasianchuk, Susan Chenard, Tom Smith, (later) Lutz Wallem

The meeting began with a review of the revised mission statement, per the March changes. All in attendance agreed with the new version, and it will be put on the web and other public information outlets.

Secretary Chenard noted that she had received word from Chairman Ed Freddie that he would no longer be able to function in that capacity. Lutz Wallem had offered to function as the new Chairman of the committee, and Paul Kasianchuk agreed to be vice-chairman. The group approved of the candidates. As Mr. Wallem was stuck in traffic, Mr. Kasianchuk offered to run the meeting.

Mr. Kasianchuk asked if one of the Selectmen would like to join the committee, and wanted to make sure this committee fell under that Board's purview. He also asked what authority this committee has, and what kinds of decisions could be made without seeking the approval of the Board. He would like the Board to set guidelines.

There was a review of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative's (NHEC) energy committee meeting that Misters Bishop, Wallem, Smith and Kasianchuk attended. Tom Smith asked if any of the programs were geared towards businesses, as most of the bigger energy users are businesses. The Town has received help at the Community Center, with an energy audit, etc. He was told that Carol Woods is the energy efficiency communities' head at NHEC. Also, a handout was distributed regarding the small business energy solutions, and the smallSTEPS program.

At the meeting, it was noticed that the Lakes Region Planning Commission and Lakes Region Energy Alliance worked together, and we wondered if our committee could work with the North Country Council to do something similar. Perhaps there was a grant available as well. Mr. Kasianchuk said that he was trying to co-opt Bill Johnstone of NHEC into our committee on a more regular basis.

Secretary Chenard was asked to put the meeting notice of the next meeting on Channel 3. She should also have it posted in the Chamber Daily Update. Jim Spanos, as head of the local education sub-committee, is also in charge of public relations, and might think of other avenues to spread the word. Mr. Smith felt that if local businesses are informed of the savings opportunities, they might get more involved. There was a discussion of the Chamber of Commerce's group for pre-buying heating fuels at a savings, and how that integrated with Mike Bovarnik's group of individuals (www.ncfa.info).

Mr. Kasianchuk asked if anyone knew of any Energy Alliance closer to Lincoln. Mr. Bishop suggested Jack Cook of Franconia. Everyone felt that a group of energy

committees may work better together. New England Home Heating Council may be an option too. Mr. Kasianchuk will contact them and see if there is a local non-profit organization like this.

Lutz Wallem arrived. He reviewed the schedule for meetings, agreeing that once a month in the summer and more often in the fall seems to work, but checking that no one wants to stop altogether. He asked if a different hour would be better for attendance, but the group felt that 5pm was still best. Mr. Wallem said he was impressed with the presentation that Wolfeboro did at the NHEC meeting, and asked that it be distributed. He felt that we should concentrate on what we want to focus on at the next meeting. Mr. Bishop explained that we would be checking with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Wallem confirmed that the energy audit had been done at the community center and various town buildings, but not at the school.

There was a quick review of sub-committees. WT Bishop is heading the water sub-committee, with Dave Beaudin on that committee as well. Tom Smith is heading the energy sub-committee, and has Pat Romprey and David Martin. Both Mr. Smith and Mr. Romprey have much experience in commercial electrical applications, but Mr. Romprey would not be available until August. Jim Spanos is heading the local education sub-committee, with able assistance from Mr. Kasianchuk.

Mr. Wallem suggested that we hold a public information evening. We should see what programs, grants, feedback etc. are available. He feels we should go to the people. Mr. Smith reiterated that once people start using energy savings, they will help spread the word. He said we should pick a program, pick a speaker and advertise it. Mr. Smith felt we should have someone speak at each monthly meeting and post it as "this person will be here and explain that program". Mr. Bishop suggested looking through the monthly newsletter from NHEC, as there are many good ideas there.

Mr. Kasianchuk said we should plan such an event for September, but we'll need to do some research before then. We could have the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students spread the word around the school too. Mr. Kasianchuk felt we should pick a date, and work backwards with advertising. Mr. Smith said he was a participant of an electric company's upgrade project (Unitil) on the commercial side. He also felt that bigger ticket items like new water heaters might be good for business owners, while other savings programs would be good for individuals. We need to inform ourselves before we inform the public.

The group felt we also need someone who can provide information to us for people who don't heat with electric. We should check if there are state programs that could disperse information on energy savings for non-electric heaters. Mr. Wallem said we should invite the major players, in oil and gas delivery, to each give us a half hour of information. Then we could invite them all back to talk to the public, in a community outreach program. We need to show that money the public invests will be a savings; savings in fuel costs due to the upgrades. David Martin said Europe is ahead of the US in this; investing in heating

technology. Mr. Wallem suggested reviewing Wolfeboro's handout to see what ideas we could take for our committee.

Mr. Smith suggested that the Town track Kilowatt usage before and after the upgrades are completed at the community center. This way the Town can show how it has conserved.

The wastewater facility was not measured at the last energy audit. Maybe that could be done when school does theirs. The Town Manager could direct this.

Water usage is metered in Lincoln, but there is no set rate for water usage, as the real estate tax covers costs necessary to maintain the water system. Dave Beaudin thinks that is why no one is interested in conserving water. He felt that if usage goes to the consumer's pocket, they will be more concerned about their usage.

For the summer, the committee plans to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. In July, this falls on July 16th, so the next meeting was set for that date. Mr. Wallem asked that we officially appoint a chairman and vice-chairman at that meeting, and that only those that attend can vote.

Action items between now and the July meeting include:

Secretary Chenard

- Request attendance from member of Board of Selectmen and/or Town Manager, prepared to answer questions regarding how the committee and Board should interact.
- Put out advertising for next meeting
- Send out Wolfeboro PowerPoint

Paul Kasianchuk

- Call Fuel Council
- Bring camera for news release

Lutz Wallem

- Call oil companies
- Review minutes

WT Bishop

- Discover sources of funding

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.