

Energy and Water Committee meeting
July 16, 2008
5:00 pm

Attending: Lutz Wallem, WT Bishop, Peter Joseph, Debbie O'Connor, Susan Chenard, David Beaudin, Jim Spanos, Paul Kasianchuk and Tom Smith

The meeting started with Mr. Wallem asking Town Manager Joseph for any guidelines or authorities from the Board of Selectmen. The Town Manager said there had been no formal discussion or guidelines set, but felt that we were an advisory committee operating under the Board of Selectmen. He suggested this committee should contact him with any projects or planned expenditures. Town Manager Joseph was very involved in this type of committee in his previous position in Peterborough and looks forward to working with this committee. Paul Kasianchuk asked about a budget, as he and Jim Spanos are on the communications committee and may need funds to do mailings, etc. After some discussion it was decided to create a budget for 2009, as we are still in the planning stages. Debbie O'Connor, the Financial Manager for the school SAU, or Michael Cosgriff, the School Superintendent, will be attending future meetings, and may be able to help with creating this budget. Mr. Kasianchuk felt they would be good additions to the Public Relations and Education sub-committee.

Tom Smith gave a report for the Energy Conservation subcommittee. He has contacted Bill Smith of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) regarding energy savings opportunities for small businesses. Tom Smith had an energy audit done of his property (Mt. Liberty Motel and Cabins). He explained that he was told that if various insulation and weatherization options were implemented, and they saved enough on his electric bill, the costs could be charged to his reduced bill instead of being paid for out of his pocket. Tom Smith asked Bill Smith to come to our next meeting, and was told that he, Bill Johnstone or someone else would be here to represent the NHEC. Mr. Wallem said that he has been speaking with Carol Woods, also of the NHEC, who has agreed to speak at our next meeting. She told him that the NHEC does not weatherize all homes, just those with high electric use and electric heat. Mr. Wallem did speak with Tri-County Community Action Program (Tri-County CAP) in Littleton. They fund weatherization at a rate of about 50 households assisted per 500 households that applied, and usually have many more applicants than they are able to assist.

WT Bishop reported on his search for funding. He contacted Clean Air-Cool Planet, who pointed him to www.grassrootsfund.org for a grant opportunity. Mr. Bishop feels the town should file an application. Mr. Wallem asked if Mr. Bishop had a report for Water Conservation subcommittee. Mr. Bishop replied that he had contacted the EPA re their WAVE program, and they may be up to do a presentation in the future. (More information is at http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/water_conservation.html.) Mr. Wallem asked David Beaudin about his comment that we need to save water in this town. Mr. Beaudin replied by explaining that Loon Mountain uses river water, which is class A or near, for snowmaking. However, the Town's ski slope at the Kanc Rec area uses treated water for their slope, which is why he joined the committee. He feels the

Town should be a leader in conservation. For example, make the jump or half pipe out of earth, not just man-made snow. Also, the school was watering the lawn during the day, when it evaporates, but he has now seen that changed to night. Mr. Beaudin is looking for some authority to say something to people using treated water in a wasteful manner. Tom Smith suggested that the Board of Selectmen set guidelines for water usage and send them out to all property owners. Then a warning letter could be sent if these guidelines were not followed. A brief discussion ensued regarding the cost of pumping water, which is one of the biggest electrical expenses in Lincoln. This led to a conversation about meter reading. Maybe we could show people how much they are using. Mr. Beaudin explained that it was taking him 3 weeks, twice a year, to read the meters, but as no charges were implemented, he stopped. The meters are now getting old and some have stopped working. Now we would need new meters, tools, software, etc. The discussion turned back to charging for use in some way, as it would cost at least \$20,000 to get the new equipment needed. All except Mr. Beaudin were opposed to this.

Paul Kasianchuk reported for the Public Relations and Education subcommittee. He has not had a chance to meet with Mr. Spanos, but researched and distributed information on 4 different organizations he has contacted. The Oil Heat Council of New Hampshire (www.nhoilheat.com) is geared to teaching about the benefits of oil heat, but does offer an oil energy audit. The National Oil Heat Research Alliance, NORA (www.nora-oilheat.org), is an extension of the Oil Heat Council, and attempts to explain why oil heat is better than other alternatives. Northern Utilities (www.northernutilities.com) provides efficiency information for oil, gas and electric, as well as assessment rebates. Finally the OEP (Office of Energy and Planning) has the most user friendly site (www.nh.gov/oep), that he has seen so far. It is good for comparison-shopping for our Town's citizens to see where the best deal is found with energy providers.

Mr. Kasianchuk wants us to put together an article to distribute to local media, and is looking for direction for that from the group. His objective is to roll out in the fall with a whiz-bang approach; an event, or meeting, or looking for members event. He wanted a picture taken of the committee today, to be used as soon as possible. He also felt the school and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) will be good conduits. He would like to make a press release and checked to make sure the committee was comfortable with that. The committee will review the press release before it goes out.

Debbie O'Connor updated the committee on the school's activities to date. She explained that the school did have an audit done of their building, including lighting, "building envelope" (outside walls), etc. The elementary school is classified as small industrial and the high school as large industrial classified customers. The biggest savings will be lighting in the high school, particularly the gym, kitchen, etc. This would be a \$12,000 project, but they can get a \$4,000 rebate on new light bulbs and there would be a \$6,000 energy savings on the project, per year. The costs will be built into the bill, so they would see a similar bill amount, while paying back NHEC. In the high school, they expect the project will be paid back in 1.6 years, and then their electric bill will go down. Atlantic Energy is the company doing the bulb and fixture replacement. As far as oil, Lin-Wood School is in a cooperative with the Plymouth school system, and has locked in Fred

Fuller at \$4.295 per gallon. She also explained education opportunities within the school, such as closing classroom doors to be more energy efficient, and turning off lights in rooms when they are not in use. The school has a Facilities Committee working on those issues.

The committee held their formal election next. Lutz Wallem was voted chairman, and Paul Kasianchuk was voted vice chairman, each by unanimous vote.

Chairman Wallem reviewed the agenda and confirmed its priorities:

- a) help and educate the public, especially in preparation for the upcoming winter
- b) help and provide Lincoln business owners with information of which programs are available
- c) reduce energy and water consumption in and around public buildings

WT Bishop made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the June meeting, seconded by Paul Kasianchuk. The vote was unanimous.

Carol Woods of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative will be a presenter at the committee's next meeting, scheduled for August 20th at 5pm. Due to its length; the Wolfeboro PowerPoint will be reviewed at that meeting, as well. Chairman Wallem also asked the group to review the Tri County CAP handout on weatherization.



Back Row: Paul Kasianchuk, Lutz Wallem, Tom Smith
Front Row: Peter Joseph, Jim Spanos, WT Bishop, Dave Beaudin