

Energy and Water Conservation Committee
August 20, 2008
5:00 pm

Attending: Chairman Lutz Wallem, Vice-Chairman Paul Kasianchuk, WT Bishop, Bill Smith, Tom Smith, Jim Spanos, Dave Beaudin, Debbie O'Connor, Brian Baker, Joe Chenard

The meeting started with a presentation from Bill Smith of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC), who had come in Carol Woods' place. Bill Smith runs the commercial and industrial program this year, and works with building contractors to do performance audits. He admitted that NHEC's infrastructure has been overwhelmed this year. Mr. Smith distributed handouts regarding various programs for energy conservation. Funding comes from the cost of 3 mils per kilowatt of usage on your monthly bill, and is split between NHEC programs and state energy assistance programs (1.8 to 1.2). Some NHEC programs include "shell measures" on residential homes, home energy assistance, and for new homes, the Energy Star homes program, which aim at getting people to build a home that uses 15% less energy than standard building code. Energy star lighting and appliances have subsidies or rebates, and he left some brochures for those.

Mr. Smith explained that businesses are divided into small businesses and large business, based on if they use over or under 100kw/month. There is a 15% rebate available on approved jobs for small businesses, and a more complicated rebate calculation for large businesses. The rebate would be for lighting, motors, air compressors, etc., based on the incremental cost from low efficiency to high energy efficiency paying for itself within a year. On new equipment, they would buy down the cost for better efficiency. The town Manager pointed out this is what the Town did for the variable frequency drive sewer pump on Route 3, which we had to replace recently. SmartStart is an on-bill savings program, creating savings through affordable retrofit technologies. NHEC pays for the technology up front and you pay it back over several years, while keeping your electric bill slightly lower than it started. Basically, 75% of your estimated savings are charged each month, so your bill would reflect a 25% savings at first.) SmartStart is fuel neutral, so even if you heat with gas or oil, it would benefit. 75% of savings must pay for the project in 5 years or less, and there is interest involved; called a monthly program charge.

The NHEC is also helping with rebates on wind turbines, on solar PV (photovoltaic) and solar hot water. It is experimenting along with its members, and provides up to \$5000 in rebates for wind turbines, but does not sell the turbines. The NHEC wants its members to share their knowledge and experiences with these technologies.

Jim Spanos asked about super-conductive wires, and Mr. Smith said the NHEC was not there yet. Lutz Wallem asked about any consumer program. The NHEC does have home audit programs, and provides up to \$1000 towards energy upgrades for fossil fuel customers. WT Bishop mentioned that the OEP (Office of Energy and Planning) has a low-income program, and Bill Smith confirmed that NHEC also works with them, as well

as CAP (Community Action Programs) and other weatherization funds, for their electric heat customers. Jim Spanos asked about rebates on refrigerators, which are not currently available per the PUC (Public Utilities Commission).

This year many NHEC programs are largely fully-subscribed, but some monies are left available for large business and new construction programs. Small business programs are fully subscribed, Mr. Smith believes. Some funds are also left on the commercial side for fossil fuel heat, such as 50% of the installed cost of improvements up to \$5000 for boiler parts, etc. The NHEC is looking for efficiency and to reduce fuel inefficiencies. Mr. Bishop asked about woodstoves and pellets, which would be fuel switching. This is not available through NHEC, but CAP has a program. Chairman Wallem said the average funds available through the fuel program at CAP are about \$550 per household.

All NHEC programs are annual programs, and Mr. Smith expects that they will be renewed. If a company has an interest in doing something in the future, they should express their interest.

Mr. Bishop asked what the school is doing, and Ms. O'Connor replied that they are in the process of a lighting project and looking at other ways to save heating money. Someone asked about a 4-day school week, but that actually diversifies heat use to more homes instead of one building. Bill Smith wants to work himself out of a job by creating a market transformation, with contractors reducing energy use in what they build, etc. He said there is a need to enlarge the contractor resource base, as there are not enough contractors available to perform the work suggested by audit results. For example, Tom Smith has had an audit done at the Mt. Liberty Motel, but is still waiting on the contractor. Bill Smith said he should have a response from the contractor typically in 3 weeks, but if not, to please call him back and he may get a different contractor out.

The Town Manager gave a short report regarding input from the Selectmen. According to them we are an ad hoc committee, not officially appointed, and should operate as an advisory committee. We can make suggestions and make requests, such as for funding. Chairman Wallem felt the public education committee would be asking for funding of the advertising pieces.

Water usage at the Kanc was discussed. Dave Beaudin had more of an issue with the amount of snow made, rather than from where, though the current system is not the most efficient. Town Manager Joseph had spoken with Director of Public Works Bill Willey, and it won't be this year, but we could put a well in, if that makes monetary sense. We are planning to construct the jump of earth this year, before the snow flies. Also, he and Recreation Department Director Tara Tower will be meeting with Loon Mountain in a few weeks to look at their snowmaking policy and help us formulate our own in regards to when we make snow, how much we need to make, etc. and what the industry guidelines are. We would also look at the cost of operation and tickets, such as the cost of water production in relation to income at the Kanc Rec area. Mr. Bishop said that in past annual Town reports, there had been a breakdown of costs at the Kanc Rec, and he would like to see this again. Mr. Spanos asked Mr. Beaudin if we made less snow this year, with

all the natural snow we had, and Mr. Beaudin said we had not. This was why Mr. Beaudin had brought the subject up to the Selectmen. He agrees that just because Loon is making snow doesn't mean we need to do so.

Town Manager Joseph is working with Finance Director Helen Jones to do an accounting of every single energy source we use in town, and the amount per month used and its cost. This will be a baseline report, so we can compare these numbers in the future and show the savings. The water department is 7 pages alone, showing each electric meter in the pump station, etc. The amount of electricity needed to move water around jumped out at him. For example, it took 36 megawatt hours in July at the Pemi station (some \$6000) just to take water to the water plant, then over \$3000 at the plant, plus more to move it elsewhere. If we were to look at putting up solar or wind turbines, this will highlight where the power should go.

Chairman Wallem asked Town Manager Joseph to explain about "keep Peterborough warm", as he had read in the Selectmen's minutes. In the Town Manager's previous job, they were able to do fundraising to assist those people that were "on the cusp" and couldn't qualify for fuel assistance traditionally. This program would be separate from welfare, though some money was directed towards those that the welfare department suggested might benefit. The Lincoln Selectmen are in favor of starting a similar "Keep Lincoln-Woodstock Warm" program. It has been mentioned at Rotary and the Town Manager spoke with Mark LaClair of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. LaClair told him the Chamber would be trying to promote a matching fund program from businesses, to match private donations. In Plymouth, Mr. Spanos said, there's a dinner that gets hosted and raises money. The Town Manager needs to speak with Woodstock to coordinate the project, so we can do regional assistance.

Chairman Wallem visited Tri-county CAP today. He learned that people from each town (Lincoln, Woodstock, and North Woodstock) each needed to sign up in other towns. Karen Hoyt from the CAP office offered to come to Lincoln on Friday's to take applications, and this would work well, as we have a small office available for such a function.

There are some meetings in Conway on the 26th of August, and Meredith on the 27th of August, regarding the Governor's climate task force, or NHSEA listening session. Chairman Wallem wants to coordinate people to go to at least one of these. He and Mr. Bishop will go to Meredith on the 27th, and Tom Smith and Jim Spanos needed to check their schedules.

Mr. Bishop said he has various people willing to come up and give presentations on water, like Derek Bennet from DES, and Bob Morency from water protection. Chairman Wallem said we should do that for our November and/or December meetings. Mr. Bishop also spoke with Jack Ruderman from OEP, who is working on a NH energy plan. This is on the back burner for now though. Mr. Bishop reminded the group of the grant we need to apply for, which resulted in a discussion on who needs to fill out the application. The

Town Manager said he would work with the appropriate sub-committee, to have it ready for the due date of mid-September.

The public education subcommittee gave a report of their activities, including the creation of a photo release, brochure and postcard mailer. Paul Kasianchuk distributed 4 pages of drafts to be reviewed for form and content. The executive summary described what the current scope is. That there is a committee, it is about conservation and education, and which tools to use (like brochure or postcards). He'd like to extend a wide-open invitation, and then pare down or define more closely as people respond. Mr. Kasianchuk is always thinking of pictures or graphics, as they draw the eye. Education and communication is the key, then we would fine tune to "energy and water conservation and education". He felt it was important to have an acronym or short name for our committee, and everyone agreed. It was decided that everyone would try to think of a good example by the next meeting, and the Town Manager said he has someone to talk to about it. He then suggested the EAGL team, as Energy Advisory Group of Lincoln. Mr. Kasianchuk said he would create a 2-sided brochure, which could be printed on color paper or card stock, and be distributed quickly. He said that it is not PR (public relations) but PE (Public Education), but we need to come to understand what they (the public) want to know too.

Chairman Wallem asked that we move through the balance of the agenda quickly. On item 6, everyone agreed that we are looking to focus on energy conservation in the near term, not necessarily the long-term. Saving dollars is how to sell the idea. Chairman Wallem asked that we think about a schedule of public education.

When the Kanc Rec switches to well or river water for snowmaking, we should do a press release. We should also try to get awards if we are able to do this, and Mr. Kasianchuk felt we should get someone to search out awards to promote what we have done.

Mr. Bishop will organize a tour of an energy efficient house on Pollard Road in the spring, when it is constructed.

Chairman Wallem was surprised to learn that 1 gallon of gas results in 20 pounds of CO₂, but the Town Manager confirmed this.

Tom Smith noted that Gov. Lynch signed HB 628, which has to do with another rebate for solar electric, by state, which would be in addition to the NHEC programs.

Jim Spanos made a Motion, seconded by Tom Smith, to approve the minutes of July 16, 2008, as amended. The vote was unanimous.

The date for the next meeting was set for September 17th, again the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The public meeting will be scheduled for October. The committee adjourned at 6:50pm.