

Energy and Water Conservation Committee  
October 15, 2008 - 5:00 pm

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5pm

Attending: Chairman Lutz Wallem, Dave Beaudin, FBLA student Tyler Vance, Debbie O'Connor, Jim Spanos, Tom Smith, and Susan Chenard

After a quick review of the previous meeting minutes, discussion turned to how many people we had heard from for the energy event. We have only heard from one or two, but have advertised all over.

Chairman Wallem said he spoke with George Spanos, and was told that foam insulation costs 4 times as much, can't be used in ceilings due to heating and plumbing pipes, needs 4 feet clearance from the walls to apply and needs sheetrock in basement areas to cover as a fire retardant. Electrician Mike Harrington has also been invited.

WT Bishop suggested that Channel 3 interview Chairman Wallem. (Tyler Vance is director there.)

Chairman Wallem explained that he had received the names of 3 people that live alone and might need help from Melissa at the Community Center. He felt we should also look at couples or families. Debbie O'Connor said that the Community Service group helps many more. The Chairman also recently heard about the "Good Morning" program run through the police department, and felt it is a very commendable program.

Chairman Wallem wondered if we should invite contractors based on the small amount of RSVP's received to date. Jim Spanos said he had spoken with NHEC who had asked about having a table there, prompting the Chairman to suggest that we make handouts of the many types of information we had gathered so far. Then attendees could pick what information they want, and we could discuss it with them in the future.

The Chairman has emailed Ben Southwick of Garland Mill Timber Frames, who built a near 0 energy loss home in Holderness, for more information on this process. Mr. Southwick has a heat-seeking camera and could do energy audits. It seems NHEC does audits only when contractors need work, as Tom Smith has been waiting for four months for results, and the school waited six months, and the reports seem to take forever to come back. Mr. Smith asked that we get 50 booklets showing the energy efficient bulbs from NHEC.

A **motion** was made by WT Bishop, seconded by Dave Beaudin, to approve the minutes of September 17, 2008, as written. The vote was unanimous, but Jim Spanos abstained as he was not present.

Tyler Vance had chance to speak for the FBLA. He distributed envelope with information on the CFL bulb program they did last year. Chairman Wallem pointed out that Loon Reservations changed all the bulbs in all their rental units. The CFL's use 50-80% less

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energy than typical light bulbs. Mr. Smith said the ones from the school were a better quality. The Chairman asked if one has to be careful when disposing of bulbs, and Mr. Beaudin said there is some mercury, but Mr. Spanos said it is like a tip of a pen and much less than burning coal. Tyler was not sure if the FBLA would be doing the bulb program again. He said his family bought some and electric bills are now less. They seem a little darker, but Mr. Smith said that this is only when turning them on, and that they brighten over a few minutes. Mr. Smith also noted that there are green CFL's that have green tips and can go to the dump without special treatment.

At this point the committee turned to planning the October 22<sup>nd</sup> "Energy Forum".

- We have had only 3-4 respondents for attendees so far, so we will not invite any other contractors at this point.
- Although we have spoken to several contractors, not very many seem interested in coming anyhow. This is due in part to several other events happening that evening. The window replacement people didn't want to come either. Ms. O'Connor suggested giving a CFL bulb to each attendee. Mr. Spanos is working on getting window sealing kits donated from Aubochon and will speak with Home Depot tomorrow. Lowe's said they need a request on Town letterhead.
- Regarding publicity, Mr. Spanos plans to create a brochure to distribute over the weekend to pizza places, etc. Mr. Smith suggested creating a newsletter that is paid for by advertising, like the sample he showed from Boscawen. It contains minutes of meetings, what's happening in the police department, etc. We should investigate the cost; maybe touch base with Glen Press, etc.
- The committee reviewed which handouts to use at the event.
- There was a short discussion regarding if the police department could mention the event while doing their Good Morning calls.
- People can receive assistance through CAP (community action program), Welfare, Churches, and Clubs. Mr. Bishop mentioned that there is a social worker at the Community Center/Senior Center who can help people find appropriate assistance as well. Chairman Wallem suggested he get more information on this.
- The name of the event should be changed to "How to Reduce Home Energy Use".
- There was discussion again about the delay in getting audits and results from the NHEC. Mr. Smith said he could have been a voice for them, but still got no results and is frustrated. He and the Chairman feel that more than one contractor is needed.

The publicity committee has not had time to draw up a budget yet, as Mr. Kasianchuk has been busy with other obligations.

Chairman Wallem distributed information on geothermal heating and cooling.

Nicole LaPointe of the North Country Health Consortium in Whitefield has offered to assist us with funds for food at informational meetings like the upcoming one on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and for printing of informational materials. She also put out a notice to everyone that receives her emails regarding our event. The Chairman suggested Mr. Spanos get in touch with her.

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The Chairman next distributed information on Wind Energy. Small wind mills can be put on the roofs of private houses, can be very efficient, and qualify for federal Tax Credits.

He also distributed a sizable packet of information on the “Stay Warm NH” program sponsored by Gov. Lynch.

Finally, he distributed some information and reminded everyone of the NH Fuel Assistance Program. The Federal Government increased the allocation for NH by \$10 million this year.

Mr. Smith confirmed that he will check on details of the newsletter and will accompany Chairman Wallem to NHEC at a future date. He also asked to see further information on pricing for geothermal.

The next meeting, besides the event, was scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, and the meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.