Energy and Water Conservation Committee
November 19, 2008 - 5:00 pm

Attending: Vice-chairman Paul Kasianchuk, Town Manager Peter Joseph, Police Chief Ted Smith, Ken Osgood, Roz Lowen, Becky Noseworthy, and Secretary Susan Chenard

Vice-chairman Kasianchuk reported that Chairman Wallem was out of town, so Mr. Kasianchuk would be chairing the meeting this evening. Subcommittee chairmen Tom Smith, WT Bishop and Jim Spanos were also unavailable. Mr. Kasianchuk reviewed the agenda, which included suggestions from the Chairman and Vice-chairman.

Secretary Chenard reviewed the energy event held in October. Although good information was available, advertising had been sparse and it was not well attended. Brochures are now available at the Town Hall, Chairman Wallem and WT Bishop plan to meet with the seniors on an upcoming Wednesday, and Police Chief Smith said he would be glad to use the solar-powered editable copy sign to advertise the next event. She also noted that the Lincoln Fire Department was to receive their thermal imaging camera today, and could possibly use that to track heat loss for a small donation.

Ms. Chenard noted that the Town had not been successful in working with the NH Electric Cooperative regarding using the SmartStart process for insulating the Community Center. Having started the process this spring, the Town has been calling Mr. Smith at the NHEC regularly. Several attempts at quotes were made, but none received until a month or so ago. However, this quote was so high that rather than paying for the insulation via the savings on the electric bill, the NHEC now wanted to charge more per month. The Town will now try to do this in-house. Ms. Lowen said she had tried to get an audit done and was told she was the 300th person to ask, but they only had 75 slots available. Audits from other entities would cost several hundred dollars.

Secretary Chenard explained that snowmaking operations at the Kanc ski hill had been reduced significantly. The hours of snowmaking would be reduced from 300 to 200, using far less electricity, and payroll would be cut in half for snowmaking. Coverage of the slopes would be the primary role, and only if there was enough natural snow would any features be created, such as the ski jump. (Costs to build the jump of other materials was prohibitive.) She mentioned that the Community Center did have the new heaters installed, which were providing much more even heat, and insulation and plastic window coverings were planned there as well.

At the Town Hall, we are exploring quilted air stoppers and plastic coverings for the windows, particularly on the northeast side, which seems to receive the most wind. Becky Noseworthy noted that when windows are not locked, there tends to be a big gap, particularly when they are the tilt-in kind for easy cleaning. Ken Osgood said he used only 400 gallons of heat oil last year with plastic window coverings, so there is a significant savings.

Vice-chairman Kasianchuk next distributed a copy of the final version of our news release, and the attached newspaper articles from the Conway area, showing various ways to educate the public about conservation options.

The Conway area Green Team seems to use a canned program, which is easy to implement. He felt we want to be communicators, not necessarily implementers. We want to discuss energy and water conservation. Rob Burbank (in that article) is from the AMC and we might be interested in having him come talk to us about the Carbon Challenge. Ms. Lowen noted that this is also available on the web at http://carbonchallenge.sr.unh.edu/ .

The next article discusses an energy conference in North Conway. There was a charge to attend, but we don't want to charge as much of course. That conference was geared towards businesses. Ms. Lowen said she went to the Energy Fair in Bethlehem this past weekend, which was at no charge. Jack Cook of Franconia organized this event, as he did the one in Franconia earlier this year. Ms. Noseworthy confirmed that she saw it advertised in the White Mountain Shopper, picked up a brochure here, but also saw them at the library and community center. There were good presenters, mainly local, and one group describing geo-thermal. Ms. Lowen described the event, saying there were displays in the hallway and an auditorium with moderated back-to-back speakers, including a discussion of improvement project funding by a local bank, etc. She said there was discussion about the www.DSIRE.org website. Bob Tortorice from Franconia was also there as a green builder.

The next newspaper article described a green builder from the Conway area, and his work with the Climate Challenge. This was another example of public relations, with a big splash in a local paper, and using key phrases. The UNH Cooperative Extension was noted in a final article regarding heating with wood. It was suggested that there be a link to this on our website at www.EAGLTeam.org.

Mr. Osgood asked if the new prison in Berlin would be using wood heat, as he had built the jail in St. Johnsbury that does so. Mr. Kasianchuk said that they did plan to do so in Berlin and that they plan to use a steam system. He had just heard about a biomass operation.

There was a discussion of how to get more people to attend meetings of the Energy and Water Conservation Committee. It was nice to have 4 new people here tonight. Two came due to requests from WT Bishop, and the other two heard through the Town Hall. We need to continue our public education to let people know we are here.

Town Manager Joseph asked for recommendations for Town buildings, etc. Chief Smith suggested the Joint Loss Management Committee should look for energy savings opportunities while doing the annual safety inspections.

Mr. Osgood explained another way to conserve energy using a 4-inch exterior insulation system. This can be applied over anything, has an R15 factor, an epoxy flex coat over it and looks like stucco afterwards. He has a lot of information on this, as he is on the facilities committee at the school. He is trying to do the high school and elementary school, which have no insulation between the block and brick. Payback many years ago on a similar project was 3 years or so. He will bring this information to our next meeting.

There was a brief discussion of windmills, and an article noting that the Mountain View Grand was installing a large one on their golf course that they anticipate will cover half their energy usage. Smaller windmills are available for homes, etc., but it is important to have a steady wind, not gusts.

Becky Noseworthy has been doing research on SunHeat heaters. She will be trying one for a week from a dealer in Littleton. She has spoken with about 4 people that have them in the Lincoln/Woodstock area already. They say they pay about $20 more per month in electric, but save considerably in oil. The heater covers 1500 square feet and heats the whole space like the sun; throughout home/room, not just the ceiling. Buying local, at a cost of about $395, means the dealer will do any necessary repairs and give you a loaner in the meantime if necessary. CAP may be paying for these units as an alternative to heating fuel. Ms. Noseworthy said AARP has a similar unit that guarantees reduction in oil use by 50%. She will report results in January.

Chief Smith reiterated that the electronic copy sign is solar powered, cutting the need for a generator. In his position as Emergency Management Director, he has been working on solutions to if a snowstorm or other weather issue results in power outages throughout Town. Shelters would be located at the Town Hall, school and community center, if we need it. The Town also works with various hotels that have generators. He is working with the Red Cross on solutions and has discussed flu information with Nicole LaPointe. He is now working to have 5 team leaders for a citizens' corps type system. Each team would go door to door to spread the word of what to do, etc. They will be trained and contact others.

The next meeting date was set for January 21, and the meeting adjourned at 6:08pm.