

## **Cape Elizabeth Alternative Energy Committee**

Minutes: December 19, 2007 (REVISED 1/7/08)

**Present:** Dave Whitten, Sara Lennon, Bill Slack, Ernie MacVane, Alan D. Lishness, Peter Ingraham, Wyman Briggs, Brigitte L. Kingsbury, Steven J. Linnell

**Guest:** Christopher Ramezpour

**Absent:** Ted Hawkes

### **1. Minutes:**

The minutes for the November 26, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **2. Review of old business/action items:**

School & vehicle energy use: E. MacVane had checked on the bio-mix for the town's fleet of diesel vehicles – it is 5% as previously stated.

E. MacVane distributed data sheets on PC/MS oil deliveries, HS oil deliveries, schools' kilowatt usage, PC/MS water usage, HS water usage.

Discussion on why HS oil usage is so much higher than PC/MS combined: it is an older building. Staff is looking into better insulating walls and windows.

The pool is a large energy & water user.

E. MacVane will look into why different electric rates for different school buildings.

D. Whitten suggested heating the hot water with solar, at least to get it up to a certain temperature.

Intern/grad student research possibilities: W. Briggs introduced C. Ramezpour, a candidate for a Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. C. Ramezpour had previously emailed the committee a copy of his Policy Analysis Exercise statement which lay out the policy question and his methodology for solving it. He will be working with us as partial fulfillment of his degree. His project is due in early April 2008. There ensued a discussion about how best to utilize C. Ramezpour's time and research skills. He will be looking at how other communities have started to deal with the issue of alternative energy and town energy plans.

### **3. Discussion:**

D. Whitten discussed going to the Planning Board meeting where they voted on allowing residential wind turbines. With a 4-1 vote it will go to the Town Council for consideration.

We should be sure to get an expert on wind to talk at the public hearing.

Also a suggestion to set up a symposium for the town, perhaps at the HS, to get people "up to speed" on the issue.

S. Lennon suggested that we write a few letters/columns in the Courier.

B. Slack again addressed C. Ramezpour's study for us – and the need to weigh energy alternatives. We must find out what is feasible for the town and what the cost of conversion would be.

A. Lishness spoke about the carbon footprint of Cape: our goals for the town must be to save money through lower energy costs AND lessen our collective town carbon footprint.

S. Linnell mentioned that he put in a request at the Muskie School for an intern but has not yet heard back.

### **4. Sharing of energy events, stories, news:**

S. Linnell mentioned the January 9, 2008 event where Maine Clean Communities, along with several other organizations is co-sponsoring a Public Forum hosted by the Hydrogen Energy Center. The guest speaker will be Congressman Tom Allen, speaking on the Status and Trends in US Federal Government Renewable Energy Policy. B. Kingsbury mentioned that she is registered for the event.

B. Kingsbury distributed a web print out from Smart Energy Now, a local group apparently working to place solar and wind in local schools. D. Whitten knows P. Coupe & will follow up to see at what stage his projects are.

Discussion of Cape Courier news article about wind at the Transfer station. We need to follow up with this and find out how the planning board is planning to move forward with this idea.

## 5. Continue development of work plan:

We reviewed the major topics as listed in the Work Plan Memo distributed by B. Slack at the November 2007 meeting.

Discussion of having C. Ramezanzpour possibly working on a "slice" of the issue in order to give us a tool kit in order to tackle the other subjects. Perhaps the pool hot water or school energy usage – and then we can learn from his process for topics such as vehicles and municipal buildings.

Fundraising discussion – how to get energy grants, who is giving them?

One of the goals of the eventual plan for the council is to make it a sustainable program.

For the school buildings (and other topics) we need to establish some base metrics and then eventually see if we can meet the goal. We must publish this information.

Need to evaluate school transport policies, such as "no-idling rules".

The town is already doing a good job in shepherding our resources and we should make that known as well.

And that ties into the need for community buy-in: we should perhaps set up a website on the committee's ongoing work & town's energy usage, forums for residents, articles in the Courier.

S. Linnell mentioned that we want to be sure to look at all alternative energy technologies existing (natural gas, hydrogen, propane, ethanol, fuel cells)

\*\* Immediate goal: write an article for the Courier about the committee –what we are working on, how residents are welcome at meetings, etc. B. Slack offered to write the first letter.\*\*

## 6. Understanding & leveraging existing community programs:

S. Linnell distributed a listing of "Community Energy & Greenhouse Gas Reduction Efforts in Maine". He knows much of this from his work with the Maine Clean Communities, especially with regard to the transportation issues. Briefly discussed the listing of resources (and the handy chart at the back): Clean Air-Cool Planet, Community Energy Challenge, Governor's Carbon Challenge, ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), Maine Clean Communities, Maine Partners for Cool Communities plus other related efforts.

S. Linnell also distributed information on ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability).

Portland and Falmouth are current members of ICLEI. GPCOG could become a member which would bring their services to all of COG's member communities at a more affordable rate and facilitate a more regional approach.

Discussion on energy audits: is there a framework we can use from one of these programs?

S. Linnell will look into it.

A. Lishness is worried about an "information glut" so he wondered if we could find out, perhaps through these programs listed above, whether there are "best practices" out there for cold communities? S. Linnell will try to identify some.

S. Linnell also distributed the partial "Climate Action Plan for Maine 2004".

## 7. Next meeting details:

S. Linnell will send out a Doodle email to set up next meeting (week of January 14 or 21, not on M or F)

S. Lennon offered to take the Minutes at the next meeting.

S. Linnell will send out a "survey monkey" or something similar to determine what committee members' specific interests are in relation to the work plan. We don't want to duplicate efforts.

S. Lennon will follow-up with Town Council on the wind issue.

W. Briggs will coordinate with C. Ramezanzpour to get him started.

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