

Cape Elizabeth Alternative Energy Committee
Minutes: January 24, 2008

Present: Wyman Briggs, Ted Hawkes, Bridgette Kingsbury, Alan Lishness, Ernie MacVane, Bill Slack, David Whitten

Absent: Peter Ingram, Sara Lennon

Staff and Guests: Anne Holland, Steve Linnell, Chris Ramezanpour

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes for December 19 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Sharing current events and relevant news

- David reported that Saco City Council has approved \$185,000 to erect a 124 foot tall wind turbine that will generate \$10,000 in energy savings per year.
- Steve reviewed some upcoming energy conferences including Policy Soundings, the Energy Symposium in Camden, and the Governor's Carbon Challenge Forum
 - He also reviewed who is committed to speaking at the March 21 GPCOG event held at the Abromson Center. In addition to Keynote Charlie Stevens, there will be a panel made up of Rick Michaud (Town Manager from Saco), the architect of the new Muskie school, and a professor at USM.
- Chris passed out a handout about Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Technology with information from the Department of Energy's website. The handout included information about funding sources for school and municipal facilities through state grants and incentives. It was suggested that there are foundations and opportunities for fundraising within the school community itself for an energy pilot project
- Bill passed out information about the biomass Fuels for Schools which is going on in Vermont. About 20 schools in Vermont are burning wood and they're trying to get momentum for the same in Maine.

3. Update on Chris' Project and Other Discussion

- Chris asked the group if they had an idea for the near term of what level for reducing greenhouse gas emissions they would like to set. He also asked what influence the committee might try to have going forward including what kind of influence they would have on the town budget. Would they argue cost savings, and what kind of cost expenditures would be expected?
 - Bill suggested that those questions will be answered at the end of the year; however, the initial charter from town council was to provide information on cost savings with the thought that the town's costs would not increase.
 - David suggested that the charter from the town council is narrow in its scope: to identify specific ways to save money. He also noted that technically, the Committee expires in December 2008.
 - Wyman asked if one task is to narrow alternative energy options for Cape Elizabeth and indicate what the payout will be...
 - Alan sees two levels of function for the committee
 - Highly visible demonstration project
 - Process for the town going forward

- Chris asked if the goal was to meet the Mayor's climate reduction goal of 7% from 1990 levels. There was discussion of the available information for the municipal buildings with the suggestion that we only have good information going back to 1996. Chris will look at the numbers. Ernie pointed out that it is important to factor in the growth of the municipality when looking at the numbers. Ernie also said we may be able to go back further than 1996 because he keeps his own information.

4. & 5. Champion's Matrix, Workplan Review and Other

- Steve will update the Champion's Matrix based on the evening's discussion.
- Some fuel categories were added to automobiles assessment
- Steve did not think it was appropriate as a staff member to be the vehicle champion. His role is to present options to the Committee.
- Wyman suggested creating a timeline or template for the reports (looking for 2 pagers)
- Alan suggested that the committee could have a useful role telling stories of what individuals in the community have done
- A discussion of arenas for community buy-in and publicity took place including a website, the Courier, a public awareness day at the transfer station
- David suggested that there is a lot going on in town in regard to energy conservation and it is the committee's job to fit things together
- It was suggested that the group should look at the synergy of vehicle and heating fuels. For instance if you move a natural gas pipe for heating purposes, can you make it available to have a vehicle fueling station.
- It was brought up that the goal for the group is to minimize the overall impact of our energy usage and it is important to consider transportation, etc. that may be required for different alternatives.
- Bill passed around a spreadsheet he made up taking the numbers Ernie had given him. The average cost of energy usage for Cape Elizabeth Municipal Buildings is approximately \$900,000 per year. It is assumed that energy efficiency measures will save 20% of that cost so there would be an annual savings of \$180,000.
- Bill passed around some information regarding Energy Savings Performance Contracting. Discussion followed about its benefits and whether or not it is appropriate for Cape Elizabeth.

6. Review Action Item/Assignments for Next meeting:

- Wyman and Chris will come up with a report template and send it out
 - It was suggested that all the reports don't come in at the end so the group can narrow down and target the best options for Cape Elizabeth
- Next month each Champion will give a status report

7. The next meeting will be the week of February 25

- Charlie Stevens who is coming to Maine for the GPCOG Forum will potentially come and talk to the group that week. Steve will see how long he will be here.