

Cape Elizabeth Alternative Energy Committee  
Minutes: February 28, 2008

**Present:** Wyman Briggs, Sara Lennon, Alan Lishness, Ernie MacVane, Peter Ingram  
Bill Slack, David Whitten

**Absent:** Ted Hawkes

**Guests:** Dave Clay, Anne Holland, Steve Linnell

Bill regretfully noted that Bridgette Kingsbury would no longer serve on the committee due to family commitments

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes for January 24 meeting were unanimously approved

II. Sharing relevant energy stories/news/events

- Ernie updated the group on the seminar he attended in New Hampshire. He was most impressed with boilers used in schools in Vermont that use hardwood chips and produce zero emissions—only steam. He noted that the wood must have a minimum 30% moisture content. For a school a little smaller than Cape Elizabeth High School, 60 tons of wood per year are used and only half a can of ashes is produced each week. An added benefit is that hardwood from local mills can be used. According to the representative, the cost of setting up a similar system would most likely be between \$300,000-\$500,000. If such a boiler were to be set up in the High School, the savings would be about \$60,000 per year. Ernie will contact communities that use these systems.
- Alan passed around a memo he put together that identifies websites he finds particularly useful and relevant for lessons from other communities. He will be monitoring those websites.
- Wyman noted that Yarmouth students were awarded a grant for solar powered hot water. He pointed out the educational as well as sustainable aspect and suggested partnering with schools.
- David announced that he researched grant money from Energy Works for PV, but the grant money is gone. He will attend the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) Expo in Boston on March 11.

III. Champion's Matrix Update

- Steve noted the e-mail he sent with the updated Champion's Matrix
  - Bridgette had been the champion for wind and grants so there was discussion about new champions for those categories
    - David/Alan will be the co-champions for Wind with assistance from Wyman
    - There were no volunteers to be the lead for Grants so it was tabled

- There were also no volunteers for Vehicles
  - It was proposed that vehicles probably represent a relatively small part of energy usage for Cape Elizabeth so the vehicle question could be set aside
  - It was suggested that Bob Malley should attend a meeting since he knows all about vehicle usage in Cape Elizabeth
- Sara announced that the Cape Elizabeth planning board is considering windmill ordinances. They may try to put residential windmills on hold while they experiment with windmills on town land. They are currently considering the transfer station and schools for potential sites. There was discussion about best locations and how suitability of a site for windmills is determined.
- It was suggested that the group needs to be careful and not get into “windmill hysteria.” The synergistic relationship among alternative energy strategies is what is important and a windmill may not do enough alone. The group needs to look at all the different alternative energy possibilities and rate them.

#### IV. Report Template

- Wyman passed around a report template for consistency when comparing the alternative energy options. It was noted that it is possible that one single alternative energy may not be recommended, but that several synergistic alternative energies could be recommended.

#### V. Work Plan Review

- Ernie has been doing a lot of research on lighting.
  - There was discussion about LED street lighting
  - Lights for the pool/cafeteria were discussed
  - Ernie hopes switching lighting will produce a payback in less than 2 years
- Bill suggested that a goal of the committee should be to create an energy efficiency statement for the town that includes a budget for energy efficiency.
- David thought the town may want to strive to be a net energy producer over the next few years.
- There was discussion about what the report should look like. It was concluded that the committee needs to focus on low hanging fruit first such as operational efficiency.
- There was some question about how long of a payback period would be acceptable. It was discussed that no non-renewable energy has a payback period but with renewable energy, the fuel ultimately becomes essentially free.

- Ernie has been keeping track of energy usage in the buildings since the day he started working for the town. Ernie may be the biggest ally of the energy committee with his data that shows energy and monetary savings. Steve suggested that using Ernie's data as a baseline to show what has been done in terms of efficiency would be an excellent story, not only for the media but for the Committee's report as well.
- There was discussion about whether to do an article in the Courier about the windmill or what Ernie (and the town council) has done in terms of energy efficiency. It was concluded that a story on Ernie would be the better choice. Sara will call Elizabeth at the Courier to see if she is interested.

#### VI. Review action items/assignments for next meeting

- Alan, Wyman and David will look at wind power
- Bill will draft a mission statement
- Sara will call Elizabeth at the Courier about the story on Ernie
- Steve will update the Champion Matrix

#### VII. Schedule for Next Meeting

- There was discussion on how to best utilize Charlie Stephen's time
  - He may be interested in going over some of Cape Elizabeth's numbers to see if we're on the right track, go over some of the things he's done, and share lessons from other communities. He will be here for 1.5 to 2 hours
- Sara will extend an invitation to the members of the planning board and council
- The meeting will be held in the former cafeteria at 6:30 p.m.

#### VIII. End

- Other: Ernie's e-mail address: [ernie\\_macvane@cape.k12.me.us](mailto:ernie_macvane@cape.k12.me.us)