

Cape Elizabeth Alternative Energy Committee
Minutes: August 12, 2008

Present: Wyman Briggs, Alan Lishness, Bill Slack

Absent: Ted Hawkes, Sara Lennon, Ernie MacVane, Peter Ingram, David Whitten

Guests: Anne Holland, Steve Linnell, Mike McGovern

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes for July 21 meeting were unanimously approved

II. Efficiency Maine Wind Grant Application

- Wyman reported that Efficiency Maine received 18 grant applications and that they will award 2 grants. Since the odds of receiving the grant are relatively small, he asked whether the committee should research the procedure and costs of getting an anemometer installed.
- Mike reported that he received a letter from a gentleman who is willing to put an anemometer on top of a tower he owns on Spurwink. There was some discussion about whether that location is one where there is the possibility of erecting a windmill in the future (based on zoning and regulations), and if not, should they put an anemometer there?
- Wyman will look into the cost of having an anemometer set up and touch base with Dave to confirm that he is in touch with Saco for lessons learned.

III. Council Contact Update

- Alan attended the council workshop to represent the committee's support of the wind power ordinances. He reported that the workshop went exceedingly well and he didn't perceive that there would be any political opposition.
 - Mike reported that windmills will probably be on the council agenda on September 8 and there will probably be a public hearing in October.
- Bill sent around a draft of a memo that will be sent to council about the progress of the committee. He will e-mail it to the committee and ask to receive feedback by August 20 so it can go before the council on September 8.
 - There was discussion about how to get additional members to replace those the committee has lost. There was special interest in replacing the school representative.
 - Mike suggested adding a request for funding for energy audits to the council memo.

IV. RFP for Energy Audit

- The draft of the energy audit Bill put together was discussed.
 - Mike suggests adding a paragraph requesting qualifications
 - The timeframe was discussed. If the auditors can get a list of items to us by November, then they can be cycled into the budget beginning July 1.
 - There was discussion about which buildings to include. It was suggested that the audit not include the Library because there is a committee working on that. It was suggested that the buildings to look at are the High School, Middle/Elementary school complex and the Town Hall. It was also suggested that the pool be segregated from the High School

V. Update on Action Items

- Sara, Bill and Rick met with the Gorham School architect who gave them cost information. It might not be the best example because the Gorham School is new construction and Cape Elizabeth would be a retrofit.
 - Bill will do research on retrofits. The Customs House in downtown Portland was recommended as a good possibility to look at.
- There was discussion about vehicles
 - Mike suggests that most of the vehicle suggestions are common sense –like using the smallest, most efficient vehicle that is capable of doing the job. He discusses this with the director of public works, the police chief and the fire chief
 - The committee suggested that efficiency may not have played a part in the routine of purchasing vehicles in the past, but that it probably does now.
 - The committee is considering using a “common sense” paragraph about reducing the number of private trips in the report
 - Anne is to follow up with Bob about the age and expected replacement of the Cape Elizabeth vehicles

VI. Task List Update

- The task list was reviewed and some modifications were made. Please see the updated task list for details.
- There was discussion on how to tie education into the report and it was suggested that the report recommend working with the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation

VII. Other

- There was discussion on what is expected of the report
 - Is the expectation that the committee will put together a course for the council and town to follow?
 - Alan feels that much of the report (about 75%) is done based on Chris’ outstanding report
 - It was agreed that a baseline must be selected as far as fuel pricing when weighing the costs and benefits of certain options for the report even though the cost keeps changing
- There was discussion about what an ongoing role of the committee may be
 - Bill suggests that the committee be focused on energy issues—and if you broaden the mandate it gets “squishy.”
 - The group thought that after the report is produced, they may only be necessary to meet on a quarterly basis.
 - Mike suggested that the committee ask for a two year extension instead of a permanent status”
 - Steve wondered if the committee should be involved in other issues that affect energy use such as land use.
 - Is the expectation that the committee will put together a course for the council and town to follow?
 - Alan wondered whether it is okay to speak to organizations such as Cool Cape about what the committee is doing. Bill feels it is appropriate to interface with other organizations.
 - A question for the town: Do you want to be more aggressive and not only save money, but also be a net energy producer?

VIII. Action Items/Topics/Agenda Schedule for next meeting

- Mike will look at street lighting with the Chief of Police; getting money for the audit; and extending the commission of the committee for two to three more years
- Wyman will look at getting a anemometer proposal
- Bill will go to the Town Council meeting on September 8
- Next meeting to be held on the 9th or 10th of September