

Cape Elizabeth Alternative Energy Committee
Minutes: September 10, 2008

Present: Sara Lennon, Ernie MacVane, Peter Ingram, Bill Slack, David Whitten

Absent: Wyman Briggs, Ted Hawkes, Alan Lishness

Guests: Rick Fontana, Anne Holland, Pat Kelly (Courier), Steve Linnell

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes for August 12 meeting were unanimously approved

II. Report Layout Reviewed

- Bill reviewed the draft report Wyman put together several months ago
- To be in the report:
 - An explanation of net present value
 - Cost-benefit information
 - Greater definition in the body of the report about what things are (LED lights, geothermal, etc.), but most of the detail should go in the appendix
- There was discussion about how the report will be organized.
 - By time frame or energy type?
 - How will it be tied together? What will the focus be?
 - It was concluded that a number of alternatives will be discounted quickly because the payback is not good enough
- Bill suggested that because the council is hearing all kinds of information about alternative energy, they're looking to the committee to provide concise explanations and specific ideas for Cape Elizabeth.
- The report will be a presentation of facts and show specific proposals and cost estimates.
- The report will make recommendations for further study and action.
- It was suggested that it should be a two-tiered report.
 - Energy options, explanations and payback
 - But payback times are rapidly changing with energy prices
 - What would be good for Cape?
- It was concluded that discussing building a new school was beyond the scope of the report
- Steve suggested that however the report is structured, it would be a good idea to do an executive summary
- It was decided that there should be mention of wave and tidal power and a discussion of why they are not considered in the report
- **Action Item:** Bill will update the document and circulate it around the committee by September 24
- **Action Item:** Committee is to have comments by next meeting

III. Task List Review

- Bill reviewed the task list
- **Action Item:** Committee members were assigned topics and will write a brief explanation of them. The drafts should be done by the next meeting for discussion.
 - Cogeneration—Rick with help from Dave
 - Weatherization—from audit (TBD)
 - Solar Voltaic—Dave with help from Rick
 - Solar Thermal—Dave
 - Wind Turbine—Wyman
 - Vehicle-related—Steve
 - Woodchip Boiler—Ernie
 - LED Lighting—Alan
 - Natural Gas-Peter

IV. Cogeneration

- Rick reported that he has done some calculations about cogeneration that can be included in the report. A discussion of cogeneration and the different benefits and power combinations followed. Sara, Bill and Rick met with the architect who designed the Gorham High School which uses cogeneration and reiterated that cogeneration works best in new buildings.
- Discussion followed about the age of the current buildings and when they would be replaced.
- It was suggested that a cogeneration system could be built and used for the current buildings, and then used for the buildings that will eventually replace the current buildings.
 - It was suggested that the Cape Elizabeth school system is perfect for geothermal because it is a campus setting.
 - **Action Item:** Bill asked that Rick distribute his cogeneration analysis
 - **Action Item:** Dave will distribute the electronic version of the Bonhag proposal

V. Energy Audit RFP

- Ernie reported that the RFP went out and he requested that they be returned on September 19. He sent them to approximately 18 companies and said there may be a second clarifying round.
- **Action Item:** Ernie will forward Anne the Energy Audit RFP and she'll send it around to the committee

VI. Council Meeting

- Wyman attended the council meeting on September 8 and sent an e-mail to the committee highlighting the following:
 - The presentation went very well and the council had favorable comments
 - The council unanimously approved the request for \$40,000 to assist the committee with technical resources including energy audits
 - The council will amend the committee charge to last until December 31, 2010
 - The council approved the amendment to allow private wind turbines under fairly strict provisions

VII. Other

- Ernie shared a letter that was received from Herb Strout about using his land and windmill as a teaching tool. The committee agreed that they should give thought to his generous offer.
- The committee agreed that even though it is not a charge from the council, it would be good to do a study of Cape Elizabeth's greenhouse gas emissions
- The probability of LED streetlights and the idea of communities getting together to devise a plan with CMP was discussed
- **Action Item:** Bill will send around Cool Cape schedule

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

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Next Meeting: The first full week in October