

**Cape Elizabeth Alternative Energy Committee**  
**Minutes: April 7, 2011**

**Present:** Wyman Briggs, Ernie McVane, Brian Denison, Frank Governali

**Guests:** Greg Marles (facilities director), David Clay (facilities contractor)

**Absent:**, Kate Williams Hewitt, Alan Lishness, David Whitten, Bill Slack

**1. Introductions and Welcome:**

Wyman Briggs opened the meeting. Several members were absent due to work conflicts. The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved as written.

**2. Sidewalk Lights**

Greg Marles and Ernie McVane provided a brief update on plans in the works to install LED or Induction high efficiency sidewalk lighting along Ocean House Road from the High School to the intersection with Shore Road across from Town Hall. More details to follow.

**3. New Electricity Rates**

Greg Marles met with Peter Bartlett of Competitive Energy to discuss energy issues in early April. New electricity rates are available through Maine Power Options. Savings are due to the dramatic drop in domestic natural gas prices. This could reduce electricity costs to the town by \$10,000 and costs to the school by \$27,000. The town is pursuing this opportunity.

**4. Natural Gas Options**

Greg Marles again discussed piping natural gas into Cape Elizabeth town center with a senior Unitil rep. Unitil is still not interested in pursuing this option. Peter Bartlett of Competitive Energy recently completed a major natural gas project for USM in Portland. He noted that he is interested in developing a proposal for bringing natural gas into Cape Elizabeth and believes he can do it significantly more cheaply than the price Unitil has discussed. Additional commercial and residential users in Cape Elizabeth could also tap into this gas line. Natural gas could potentially provide a 20%-30% savings compared with fuel oil rates.

**5. Boiler Replacement Update**

Greg Marles provided an update on the boiler replacement project for the high school. A contract has been awarded to AirTemp in South Portland. Demolition is scheduled to commence in May 2011 with installation of the new boilers in June/July. The project is on schedule.

**6. Solar Thermal Project**

Cape Elizabeth plans to pursue the proposal from ReVision Energy to develop a solar hot water system to pre-heat domestic hot water at the high school using 3 evacuated tube solar hot water collectors mounted on the flat roof above the boiler room and a 160 gallon solar storage tank, as outlined in earlier meeting's minutes.

## **7. Middle School Heating Project**

The domestic hot water heater in the Middle School recently failed unexpectedly. The town plans to replace it with a high efficiency propane fired dual boiler. They also plan to install a similar solar thermal system as the one being pursued at the high school to heat DHW during April – Oct and preheat DHW during winter months to supplement the new boilers.

## **8. Biomass**

The scheduled visit to the new Biomass facility at the Oxford Schools had to be cancelled due to some unexpected issues at the facility. Greg will try and reschedule. Biomass plants for the High School would likely cost @ \$850K for a pellet burner and @ \$1.25M for a chip burner which has lower fuel costs. Other issues involved in biomass include identifying a location to store chips or pellets, the need for regular deliveries by large trucks and potential smoke emissions. A central biomass facility that could be used to heat multiple buildings would provide the most economic efficiencies.

**9. Next Meeting is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Jordan Conference Room, Cape Elizabeth Town Hall. We hope to have Peter Bartlett of Competitive Energy attend the meeting to discuss natural gas options available to Cape Elizabeth. Please let Wyman know if you will not be able to attend the meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Additional info on Competitive Energy is available through the below link.**

**<http://www.competitive-energy.com/about/associates.htm>**