

LEE ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Don Anderson, Louis Grondin, Carol Doering, Mary Woodward, Erik Johnson, Barb Wauchope

The minutes of the 6-27 -23 meeting of the committee was circulated – two sentences were removed by those that were present—and then approved. (A review prior to the meeting on the town site showed Energy Committee minutes posted through 5-2-23). Agendas were up to date.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Initial discussion regarded the transfer of the Energy Committee to that of an Energy Commission:
 - a. It is believed that the BOS did vote to go to a commission.
 - b. Review with Andy the Town Administrator (Eric and Don) indicated he is working out how to transition it with the State.
2. Regarding energy cost savings for town buildings:
 - a. Lou has done a lot of work with Deb Schanda of the Trustees after getting on their meeting agenda to get them to consider additional grants such as NH Saves from Eversource. Deb indicated that grants are the responsibility of Katrinka working with Andy. Yankee thermal can get the cost down for an audit to \$100 if approved through the State. There was a belief by some town officers the date of library completion will be January 1, 2024; although the Library trustees believe it will be October 1, 2023. There was discussion that ceiling insulation can always be added later.
 - b. This led to discussions of the savings already through conservation programs and how to present it. Lou will be at the Farmer's Market tomorrow with a table as previously discussed and will present the information he has there. He has data that he can send to Barb who can develop Graphical ways to show it, but not by tomorrow. Don indicated to Lou he would try to get it done if he sent the information.
 - c. It was discussed how we could start a fund for Energy Efficiency and Eric felt it was a good idea to bring up to the BOS.
 - d. Regarding just the small items for the Public Safety complex, or more often referred to as the Police and Fire Stations, we noted the temperature in the room set at 68 degrees, so it was turned up to 72 degrees. The crack at the bottom of the double-door in the room was still blatantly obvious. *A follow-up discussion with Steve Bullock at the Town Clerk's office with Eric and Don present with Denise and Andy, Steve indicated they have worked on that door just this past year, that the bottom is rotted, the frame is distorted. The discussion ended with the statement: "all of the windows and doors are rotting in the building." He did also note that all of the zones, which he described, are on programmable thermostats.* Perhaps the commission can strongly recommend buying a new door in the immediate future. This led to still the need to create the Energy Efficiency Roadmap, as well as the Energy Handbook and Homeowners guide, but there were no volunteers to do so at this time (see item #7 below).

- e. Transfer station solar has the savings tracker tool by Revision Solar was posted on the e-crier for all to use. We were unable to set up anything around 4th of July for Energy Independence Day celebration.
 - f. Mast Way: Rachel Eades did do an assessment for Revision Solar but we did not have an update for the meeting. Mary will call the School Board's facilities person for one.
 - g. Solar Power Farms: No discussion.
3. Changing our meeting times to evenings was not discussed although we did set the date for the next meeting to August 29th. The 1st Tuesday of each month is presently open and previously determined to be a possible future change for the commission.
 4. Erik is now on the Sustainability Committee, and he assured them we do not promote combining the two committees. We felt our focus on Energy Issues gives us a lot to do without the addition and their focus is on composting. Erik enlightened us in this regard that we pay for composting pickup at the town dump.
 5. Regarding the whole house monitor it has not been purchased.
 6. Consumer Power PUC application is still expected to be implemented in the Fall of 2023 and the Thank You to the voters by the committee was sent to Denise Duval for the E-Crier, but yet to be published. This remains to be the status. We did discuss how we could educate the public through a meeting at the Library annex and individually on computers once the cards were sent out from Standard Power.
 7. Regarding updating the town web site—the remaining ones we need to send updated information: CIP improvements (2017-2024), Energy Handbook, Homeowner guides and Energy Efficiency Road Map for the town buildings. It was felt we needed to do it prior to budget discussions at the end of the year.
 8. It was felt again that we need to promote an ordinance for preventing taxation of solar arrays in the town and not just depend on the goodness of the assessor to not include it.
 9. Regarding an expert on heat pumps Matt Rusteika, and the possible tree expert for education, no discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was general discussion on the world view of energy conservation including whether or not hydroelectric renewable energy comes from Quebec, that NH's lack of state support for charging stations creates a "doughnut hole" in New England and for us to develop an argument to present to the town to go higher on renewable energy based on local reliance vs. long distance reliance.

We also felt we should review Peterborough's Energy Plan and adapt it to Lee where it fits.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.