

LEE ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 30, 2023

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

The minutes of the 5-2-23 meeting of the committee were circulated – and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was noted by Barb that she had sworn her oath to the town and was now an official member of the committee. Lou also indicated that the agenda was believed to be posted for the committee meeting. (a follow up on the town site showed only Energy Committee and Consumer Power Committee minutes through 3-7-23).

1. Initial discussion regarded the transfer of the Energy Committee to that of an Energy Commission as Barb requested an understanding of the differences with us a commission:
 - a. Erik reviewed the wording of RSA 38, and in a follow up with Andy (Town Administrator) through e-mail, with a legal opinion provided as well, that it only needs a vote of the BOS. Next BOS meeting was believed to be tomorrow night, Wednesday at 5:30 PM, 5/31, and we were believed to be on the agenda (no agenda was posted on the town web site and last minutes were of 4-3-23 as of 6/3/23.)
 - b. Erik indicated it was more of a logistical process with selection of members on staggering 3-year terms of 3-10 members. We discussed that we were all already sworn in and the Commission should be able to be a similar process as the committee.
 - c. It was discussed that as a commission the group efforts would strengthen, that reporting on energy usage was a requirement at least annually and so the commission would have the rights for the information. Erik reviewed the information he garnered from the library as an example.
2. Regarding energy cost savings for town buildings:
 - a. Lou did get on the library meeting agenda. Mary and Barb are willing to join him on the 14th. Mary was willing to contact the architect to get details of the new design. She felt John Tappan would know who it is. We all felt recommending a Door Blower Test would be a large benefit. Erik followed up last meeting to get from the town the heating bills for the library. The library has a number of children's programs that use the old Town Hall in the winter, so the numbers Eric got from the town that include the heat for the town hall, would seem to be reasonable. The electric is broken out by the separate buildings. Regarding the library "Saves at Eversource" a 50% rebate for energy initiatives would seem to automatically save the library money. However, it is primarily for additional insulation in the attic. Lou said he had a flyer for the library indicated they were putting insulation in the attic. The question in asking for the rebate would be will it delay their plans? The Library minutes show they are experienced at working on grants, as two were in progress. They are also experienced at fundraising through the "Friends of the Library" and can perhaps be an example of fundraising for the future Energy Commission, which as a commission can take in gifts and donations.

- b. Transfer station solar implementation Lou is waiting to hear from the new representative from Revision Solar as we want to celebrate its installation. The savings tracker tool by Revision Solar was posted on the e-crier for all to use. Erik suggested celebrating around 4th of July for Energy Independence Day!
 - c. Mast Way: No update.
 - d. Solar Power Farms: No discussion.
- 3. Discussing the meeting times of the other committees it was presented that we should consider changing our meeting times to evenings to induce more members as a commission. In looking at the town calendar it looked like the 1st Tuesday of each month is presently open. This was determined to be a possible future change for the commission.
- 4. In reviewing the Commission details of other towns there was the use of the word “sustainability” throughout. Discussion followed of the possibility of combining with the Sustainability Committee, presently only two members, but it was felt that their mission is distinctly different and focused on different things. We felt our focus on Energy Issues gives us a lot to do without the addition.
- 5. Regarding the whole house monitor there was discussion regarding the funds being promised to the library as we would lose it by July 1. It was motioned and seconded (DA/EJ) and approved to purchase the monitor as the next years \$500 can provide some money to the library as promised.
- 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.
- 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.
- 8. Regarding an expert on heat pumps Matt Rusteika, and the possible tree expert for education, no discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lou was going to look into the possibility for the Commission having a booth at the Farmers Market.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.