

Lee Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2017

Present: Sharon Meeker, Cary Brown, Barbara Wauchope, Laurel Cox, Mary P Woodward, Louis Grondin

Guests: Anika Barth, Maria Barth, Bob Barth, David Cedarholm, Doug Bogen

The committee greeted the visitors, and after introductions, the visitors spent half the meeting explaining the benefits of offshore wind energy. They asked that we ask the NH governor to request that a task force or similar group be set up for offshore wind energy in New Hampshire, by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and that the group work toward the adoption of this type of energy as a part of NH's energy mix.

The resolution, "Resolution to Move Forward on Offshore Wind Development," as stated by the group of citizens, some of which are members of Energy 350 (a national clean energy group) is as follows:

"Resolved, the town/city of _____ supports efforts to develop wind power off the New Hampshire coast and urges Governor Sununu to make a formal request to the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to form a task force and stakeholder process to plan for regional offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine...." They stated the following reasons to support the resolution:

1. NH has committed to reducing greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050, and having no plan to work toward this goal, needs to work toward a sustainable energy system.
2. Utilizing only a small proportion of the wind power capacity in excess of 200,000 megawatts within a 50- mile area of the coast of NH, Maine and northeast Massachusetts and combining it with other renewable resources, could provide most of the future power needs of the region.
3. Offshore wind farms located 10 to 50 miles off our coast would have comparatively less impact on the environment, public health, and aesthetic concerns than land-based wind farms.
4. Offshore wind farms potentially could produce large numbers of jobs, better utilize Portsmouth Harbor, and other coastal communities in wind-related economic benefits.

The committee agreed to present the resolution content to the Lee Board of Selectmen as an informational item on August 14, and realizing that a warrant article directing the selectmen to appeal to the Governor to request a BOEM appointed task force, agreed to assist with writing the warrant article.

Some of the committee and the audience felt that the task force should explore offshore wind possibilities for NH rather than commit to working toward it. This question needed further discussion, and Sharon agreed to write a warrant article that would indicate that exploring the issues and educating the citizens of Lee needed to be included in the commitment to move forward. This will be discussed at a subsequent meeting, when the warrant article wording is decided upon.

We will have a booth at the Lee Fair and Mary and Sharon will work out details.

August 14, we will be reporting on the year's progress to the Lee select board. Sharon will present a brief listing of projects and progress, and Lou will present a more detailed presentation on the questions of heat savings, insulation issues, etc. in the Recycling Center.

Dana Pardis, assistant scoutmaster for Troop 154 and his son, Justin, attended part of the meeting and volunteered help with our projects. They were especially interested in Laurel Cox's report of a meeting with Peter Hoyt and Toby, new director of the recycling center, regarding the swap shop and possible construction of a new building to be located in the space between the building (where arrangements are made to drop off metals, etc.) and the recycling center. It was informally agreed that the swap shop issues could be postponed. Since moving the proposed location to a different location than from the Baylor building no longer presents an energy savings that we had expected in using some of the excess heat from Baylor, and since a new building would require another plan, we need to discuss this more with some of the other committees and with Toby.