

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes – 10 March 2010

In attendance: Russ Dean, Town Manager, Julie Gilman, Selectmen's Rep., Corey Stevens and Rebecca Audet.

NH OEP website announced our grant applications for the EECBG funds met with mixed success. The solar project at the DPW building was approved, however the two building energy improvement projects were denied. The other good news is that after the results of the MEAP audits are released (April) there is an opportunity for us to be assisted by MEAP in finding funding for the recommendations. We can discuss this aspect at upcoming meetings and when the audit results are in. MEAP auditor Sandra Bisset will be presenting preliminary findings to the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion started regarding what we have done thus far and where we want to focus the committee's attention going forward. The following are the items that were discussed:

1. The core of the committee's original charge was to find energy cost and consumption savings at town facilities. While this goal is still a work in progress, certain projects have been initiated (audits, solar at DPW). One project that remains open - submit operating recommendations/ procedures to the town manager for the town offices. Corey will finalize a list of recommendations for the committee's review.
2. The group tonight felt that the committee could begin to focus on other aspects of energy conservation within the town. This would include the entire town, not just town gov't. In essence, the committee should consider including in its focus the social aspects of energy use (attitudes, behaviors, awareness).
3. The idea of branding and/or creating a logo for the committee was discussed as a way to raise awareness of the committee w/in town. Other ideas along this line include creating a presence on Facebook and creating a stand-alone website for the committee (independent of the Town's page).
4. Russ suggested that a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce might help the committee reach out to local businesses. Russ also encouraged the committee to consider Exeter public access television as a way to broadcast energy information to the community.
5. The group began to discuss specific projects that might be "next initiatives" of the committee including anti-idling and neighborhood outreach.

Finally, the group talked about how the committee could be most effective as it moves ahead. Unfortunately, members only so much time to commit. With this in mind, our next projects should be well vetted by the entire committee.