

Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes as taken by Nora E. McGrath
13 September 2010 5:30 PM WSCR

In attendance: Des Fitzgerald -Chair Richard Knowlton – Vice Chair
Sid Lindsley (RM) Leonard Lookner (RM)
Brian Robinson (ALT) Martin Cates (SB Liason)
Jeff Kuller (Parks & Rec) Jim Mays (Concerned Citizen)

Absent: Bennet Bricker (RM) Peter Kalajian (RM)
Parker Laite, Jr. (RM) Jeff Lewis (ALT)

First order of business was to approve previous minutes. Sid Lindsley made a motion to approve previous minutes and Rick Knowlton seconded this motion. Passed 5-0 to approve.

Des Fitzgerald asked what happened at the Select Board Meeting regarding the Energy Committee. Martin Cates supplied the information concerning the group that appeared before the Select Board to protest using the Ragged Mountain area for wind energy. This group commented on the money that had been donated to do a study through the high school, and their complaint was with the energy committee with not keeping up to date minutes of meetings, not being listed in the Town's Annual Report, and for acting in a secretive manner.

It was discussed by members and agreed the role of the E.C. (Energy Committee) was to look into possible areas to improve the quality of the town's energy efficiency and in no way to “hide” or to be “secretive” about the E.C.'s purpose. It was stated that the only “power” the E.C. has is to bring all matters they are weighing to the Select Board with a recommendation or not. Everyone was in agreement that there is not, nor will be, any “hiding” on this committee and that all is above board.

PACE: Martin Cates stated that he has concerns regarding too many unanswered questions at this time. Among them... would it reduce appraisal standards? His thoughts were that it is premature and there are too many “unknowns” at this time, as rules and regulations have not yet been set. Des Fitzgerald asked what the terms would be and Brian Robinson said they were 10 year term with a 10% on investment. Brian also thought there was not much value in it for the town. Des asked if federal monies would be lost if not used. Brian said no, that it would not help the town. Richard Knowlton asked if the Select Board wanted the E.C. to do something on this matter, and Martin Cates said no, because of unanswered questions from PACE. Des Fitzgerald said that if the E.C. could help in any way, they will.

Megunticook Dams: Richard Knowlton reported that turbine one is up and useful. Ross Parker reported to him that there have been some complaints from neighbors regarding the loud noise level and that it seemed even louder at night. Leonard Lookner suggested that the police could measure the noise level.

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Richard Knowlton said that the second turbine rebuild is pending, waiting to hear if the \$50 thousand grant will come through (there is a 90 day wait period, and only 60 days have passed). Sid Lindsley asked about the unit downtown (in the Mill Building), and Richard said he was to send an email to the property manager at the mill from the link at Canyon Hydro re: hydro power. It was noted that two of the "drops" through the Mill are not town owned. At what expense is it worth it to the town? Des Fitzgerald asked if the town was to offer it's hydro to a developer can the town make money first? Can the town pay for the insurance? Richard said that renewable energy recs. Are available for Seabright. Des asked if the town was able to extract electrons from the water, and Richard said the town would be best suited. Leonard Lookner asked if there were any available tax credits, and Richard said REN (?) Energy Credits would benefit the town. Richard is looking into this and said that it may even pay for the reinvestment of the next turbine. Richard Knowlton is in the process of getting more information and will email the E.C. when he has a date and time for a walk through of the Mechanic Street property. It was noted that perhaps the Mechanic Street upper dam pipe may have been filled with concrete when MBNA owned the property.

Sid Lindsley reported that the High School has installed 48 solar panels at a cost of \$60 thousand, of which \$50 thousand came from a grant, and anyone can follow the report of it's usage online.

Des Fitzgerald asked if Revision Energy (Bill Behrens, Camden resident) would come in and give some numbers for hot water and solar test. Would he be willing to do an initial assessment before sitting down with the E.C. ? Brian Robinson said that he would contact Mr. Behrens. It was also noted that Revision Energy had given Rick Siebold a bid on radiant indoor heat some time ago. Properties suggested for radiant heat were the Public Landing restrooms and the Wastewater Plant. More on this topic will follow in future meetings.

Next E.C. meeting will take place on 4 October 2010 in the WSCR at 5:30 PM.

Adjourned.