

Town of Camden
Energy and Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes—October 8, 2015, 7:30am
Washington St. Conference Room
Meeting Secretary Marina Schauffler

Note: This is the first meeting of the Re-instituted Energy and Sustainability Committee after a several-year hiatus of the Energy Committee beginning in about 2010.

Future scheduled meeting

Monday October 19, 5-6pm

Monday November 16, 5-6pm

Attendees: Anita Brosius-Scott (Chair), Peter Kalajian (Vice-Chair), Tom Edge, Pat Finnigan (Town Manager), Peter Galloway, Ken Gross, James Heard (Select Board Liaison), Steven Moskowitz, Brian Robinson, Marina Schauffler

Absent: Marc Ratner, Dana Strout

Leadership:

The committee members present unanimously elected Anita Brosius-Scott Chair and Peter Kalajian Vice-Chair. They determined to have meeting minutes recorded by members on a rotating basis, with the Chair tracking that responsibility.

Meeting dates/times:

Meetings will be held from Mondays from 5-6 PM the third week of each month.

Next meeting: October 19, 5-6 PM (members will be notified of location)

November meeting: November 16, 5-6 PM

It was noted that future meetings, six people will be needed for a quorum if votes are taken. Meetings will be kept short and efficient in hopes of getting good attendance.

Public comments will be gathered at the start of future meetings.

Preliminary Discussion of Committee Goals:

More specific committee goals will be discussed at the October 19 meeting, but members outlined some initial areas of interest and concern. In response to a question whether the Committee would focus strictly on municipal energy use or the citizenry at large, the consensus was that efforts should be broad-based—engaging citizens and businesses (the entire community rather than strictly Town buildings/operations). Members noted that peer education and modeling can be a key incentive for more people to adopt energy efficient technologies and actions.

Members discussed the fact that energy is integrally tied to many other sustainability concerns, but the consensus was that the focus of committee efforts should be on energy and incorporate other issues such as waste reduction only in direct relation to energy.

The Committee discussed the charge given to it by the Select Board (as recorded in the Committee's Purpose, approved by the Camden Select Board 9/22/15):

To advise the Select Board about opportunities to reduce Camden's electrical and fossil fuel usage and carbon emissions, to promote energy conservation, promote the use of renewable energy resources, and to be an information resource for the community regarding energy-related issues. This work includes researching and recommending strategies, policies and projects that will achieve energy conservation and/or use alternative energy sources, as well as public information, education and outreach.

Select Board Liaison Jim Heard noted that the Committee need not be bound by that description, and can be as broad or specific as it needs to be (ideally being highly specific about project details).

Some members expressed a desire to have a clear set of priorities (at least for the short term; longer-term planning can be challenging given that energy landscape is changing quickly). Several members would like the Snow Bowl building (<http://www.penbaypilot.com/article/camden-planning-board-begin-new-snow-bowl-lodge-review/46364>) to be one initial priority since it involves new construction in a prominent setting and could be designed and constructed in ways that save energy, incorporate solar power and demonstrate these technologies to building visitors. It was suggested that Peter Gross, Chair of the Snow Bowl Building Committee, provide a status briefing to the Energy Committee at its November meeting.

Committee members expressed interest in exploring energy-efficient street lighting (that could contribute to dark skies efforts). They agreed to consider further project goals before the October 19 meeting.

Education and Alliances:

Several members expressed a desire to have projects undertaken by the committee have a strong educational component. To educate themselves, committee members committed to reading/rereading the June 2015 Watershed School report, *A Carbon Neutral Camden: It's Time to Act* (which will be circulated to the Committee and which Pat Finnigan agreed to post on the Town website) and a *Maine Energy Handbook: A Resource for Municipalities on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy* (<http://www.walldoboromaine.org/docs/MaineEnergyHandbook.pdf>).

Committee members felt it would be helpful to be briefed by members of the previous Energy Committee on what that Committee sought to do, what it accomplished and what roadblocks it encountered. Pete Kalajian and Brian Robinson will provide a 10-minute summary of that at the October 19 meeting. Committee members would also like to have a briefing from members of the CHRHS Windplanners group (<http://www.fivetowns.net/subsites/windplanners/>), potentially at its November meeting. The Chair agreed to inquire whether there is a committee or group in Rockport interested in energy concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 AM.