

Energy Committee Meeting  
 1 November 2010  
 5:30 pm – WSCR  
 Minutes as taken by Nora E. McGrath

In attendance: Des Fitzgerald, Sid Lindsley, Richard Knowlton, Martin Cates, Brian Robinson,  
 Peter Kalajian, Jeff Kueller, and Leonard Lookner.

Absent: Bennett Bricker

- 1) **Other Business:** Sid L. made an official request that Bill Hopwood's letter be entered into the minutes of this meeting. Richard K. will check with Mr. Hopwood to see if that is alright with him, and if it is, the letter will be placed in the minutes.

Richard K. said that he sent a Hydro Primer into the office with the hope that it would be distributed to the committee and, has not yet. He will check with Janice in the office.

- 2) **Review and approve Meeting Minutes of 4 October 2010:** Sid L. made a motion to approve the minutes, to which Richard K. seconded. Minutes were approved 5-0.
- 3) **Changes to Committee:** Des received a resignation letter from Parker Laite, Jr. The letter was read will be placed in the notes. Parker was thanked for his service and it was commented that he will be missed.
- 4) **Discussion of Solar Energy/ Municipal Space progress:** Peter K. would like to meet with Richard K. to get more process information. The select board would be the one to put such a process in motion (put it out to bid). E.C. focus is on learning more about the lease to own aspect of the process and looking into companies that do this, in order to bring it to the Select Board. Sid L. asked if there were grants the town could take advantage of? Richard K. said there may be; there is one more round of stimulus money. Richard went on to say the waste water plant would be a good starting point. The panels do not just serve the buildings they sit on, and that there are 9 CMP accounts that these panels could be tied into. Des reminded the group that Bill Behrens had said that he would help with the technical issues. Peter K. wanted to know if the building could be re-roofed without removing the panels? This would be a question for either Ross and/or Bill B. at Revision Energy to answer. Richard will call Ross and ask. Peter will call Bill B. and also call some of the competitors to see what they have to offer. This direction will give the committee an understanding of what is needed with the goal of getting out an RFB to vendors. Town's benefit with working with an investor is that all upfront cost is paid for by investor and they give the town a fixed rate on electricity for x amount of years, and when the time is up, the town then owns all equipment. Des F. asked that this info. gathering be made a priority as there may be time restrictions that are unknown to this point.
- 5) **Hydro Update:** Richard K. reported that the Select Board officially accepted the \$50 Thousand dollars from the Efficiency Maine grant. Ross is putting together a scope of work that will put the money to good use. The 2<sup>nd</sup> turbine will be rebuilt, the automation that will allow emergency shut down to happen, and power monitoring. There are still public concerns about the noise. Ross has considered using more insulation in the roof and has had the motor rechecked and it was determined that the motor is fine. Ross has said that the motor will only be run during the daytime and will be shut down in the evening until the noise reduction can be worked out. Ross will be administering the grant by April 2011. Richard also mentioned that he has been unable to get the property owner from the Mill to allow him access to the property to check out the state of the Mill's old water workings.
- 6) **Street Lighting Update:** Peter K. reported that all he needs now to do a survey is a large map of the town, and folks willing to take a small section of the map and report streetlights that exist

on it. Sid L. said he would get the print out of the 5ft. Map from the town. It was discussed and brought forward was the idea to have the Conservation Committee , the Energy Committee, and perhaps even middle school students take the smaller sections of the map to report on different site's in town.Des F. suggested that the Police Dept. Should be made aware of the inventory and asked for their input. The outcome could effect the CMP bill in a favorable way for the town, and Leonard L. said that by ridding the town of useless lights, that that would reduce hydrocarbons. Peter K. said there will be handouts at the next meeting.

- 7) **Anti-Idling Policy:** Roberta not available for this meeting, and she will be invited for next month's meeting.
- 8) **Next Month's Meeting:** The next E.C. Meeting will be held on 6 December 2010 at 5:30 in the WSCR.
- 9) **Final Thoughts:** Richard K. said that the Town of Rockport is having their energy audits reviewed and wondered if Camden could perhaps piggyback off of the auditors when they are in town. Much discussion took place. Brian R. concluded that the town could figure out it's own usage with a formula of square footage + fuel use by building + electricity use and could find out the buildings that are the worst offenders. Brain R. volunteered to make an assessment of the buildings. Richard K. said he would approach the Town of Rockport with the idea of using their assessors at the same time.

Des F. announced that he will not be in town for the winter months and wants the group to think about who will step into Chair this Committee. Also , with the resignation of Parker L. a new member should be sought. A few names were brought up: Keith Rose? Greg Warren (Brian R. will ask)? Leonard L. said that Sam Roche mentions being a member all the time.Des F. will call Bennett B. and ask if he is still in. Peter said he would call Bill Behrens, as well.

**From:** William Hopwood <[hopwoodwt@yahoo.com](mailto:hopwoodwt@yahoo.com)>

**Date:** October 28, 2010 1:16:00 PM EDT

**To:** Sid Lindsley <[sidl@midcoast.com](mailto:sidl@midcoast.com)>, John French <[tocselectman@aol.com](mailto:tocselectman@aol.com)>, [desfitzge@gmail.com](mailto:desfitzge@gmail.com), Rick Knowlton <[rickk@gwi.net](mailto:rickk@gwi.net)>

Greetings:

I received from several people in town copies of Miss Giurtino's skaving letter to the Selectmen and the Energy Committee. Since I was mentioned specifically and the work I supported, criticized I feel obliged to respond. I find it increasingly frustrating for people to make comments such as this when they are uneducated about fuel cycles and the extent of the meetings which apparently she did not attend.

It is unfortunate that maybe some minutes were not kept for some earlier meetings. If that were the case, some things may have been clarified for her. In any event it was a young committee, still being formalized with a lot of things being run past it. I will let the Selectmen and the Town Energy Committee respond to most of her charges, but I would like to specifically address her criticism of wind energy.

The Selectmen formed the Energy Committee not with a specific interest of industrial wind in mind. I am not sure where she got this perception from, but the Committee was formed to look at many forms of energy production that could be possible and also address conservation. Wind is the most near term cost competitive form of renewable energy that is available; as such it made sense for the Town to pursue wind. She mentioned the anemometers and equipment icing up and could this happen to the wind turbines. Yes, it can. But if you would look at the predominance of wind turbines in the United States today, , the industry has learned over the years to deal with situations such as icing.

She calls the U-MASS study flawed but is was not flawed. It was unfortunate that we did lose some data due to equipment malfunctions and some of the icing was to be expected. The methodology that U-MASS used to estimate the wind based on the measured resource was developed by meteorologists and engineers and has been used extensively in Europe, in the U.S., by consulting meteorologists and engineers throughout the world dealing with wind energy applications. It provides a picture of what one can expect from the wind resource. The work U-MASS provided was probably a \$30,000 to \$50,000 project that the town did not have to pay a penny for. She seems to miss this point. The cost was probably at the high end due to the service calls U-MASS had to make.

On more than one occasion I did mention that continued resource assessment would be beneficial using ice free anemometers. This was also brought out during Mr. Silkmen's presentation to the Energy Committee as well. I am not sure where she got the idea of \$5,000 of tax of tax payer's funds pursuing wind based on a flawed study, but I think she fails to realize that this study again was not flawed but provided a very accurate estimate of the wind resource for the town to make educated decisions on.

I believe the town was very upfront with the citizens holding public meetings. The Energy Committee meetings were open and publicized and there was at least one presentation to the community made by U-MASS personnel shortly after the anemometers were installed on Ragged. I believe an update was planned and I am not sure if that occurred or not, it may have.

The visual impact from wind machines is subjective. What is unsightly to one person may not be unsightly to another person. She brings out many of the negatives that are being thrown around by many groups who are basically uninformed on wind. In the next to the last paragraph of her letter, she says that it will make Maine less attractive to tourists and people who might be considering moving here. The opposite could be the case. Searsburg Vermont was concerned about the impact of the wind turbines on their ridge crests next to a state forest. It turned out that many tourists came to view the wind turbines. There is also more of a feeling for environmental stewardship these days and people might find it very attractive to move into communities that have taken the initiative to try to control some energy aspects of their town.

If anybody has any questions regarding any comments I have made here or any other accusations that this women has made against wind, I can be reached at this email address.

Bill Hopwood