

**MINUTES OF THE
CENTER HARBOR ENERGY COMMITTEE**

August 14, 2008

The meeting convened at 7 PM.

Attending were: Steve Caney and Chris Williams, Co-chairmen and JoAnn Wood, Secretary. Also attending was Randy Mattson representing the SB and alternate.

I. The minutes were read and approved

II. Reviewing on-going business

- A. As a follow-up to Fire Chief John Schlemmer's list of energy-saving issues
- Chris Williams reported that he has been playing phone tag with a company specializing in overhead doors. He will persevere.
 - Randy Mattson checked into the contract to repair parts of the firehouse roof. Unfortunately, the contract did not include installing insulation and the town cannot afford to increase the amount of the contract at this time. The fire roof currently has about two inches of insulation
- B. In an attempt to inveigle Bernie Volz onto the committee, we agreed to change our regular meeting day to the **first Thursday** of the month – sort of. The new meeting dates through December are as follows: September 18; October 16; November 6; and December 4.

III. Refocusing on goals set in the early days of the committee. In the last few months, several committee members had expressed a wish to stand back and reassess where the committee stands in relation to its stated mission statement. As a vehicle for making this assessment, we turned to the long list of aims/tasks/means that Dari Sasson had laid out. These in turn were based on Chris William's mission statement. JoAnn Wood had volunteered to restructure the list into a worksheet for further discussion. The rest of the meeting was spent reviewing the worksheet and approving some actual action steps.

A. Steve Caney opened the discussion with a brief rumination of where he'd like to see the EC now and in the near future. For example:

- We exist to serve the community. How do we determine its immediate needs?

- There's a cultural change taking place now in that everyone wants to save energy – it's the 'in' thing. And people want to know what resources are available
- Citing Erica Anderson's recent email regarding the impact of high energy costs and what can be done to alleviate very real hardships that are expected this winter, Chris Williams pointed out fairly simple actions that could be organized to take advantage of 'pop-up opportunities', such as harvesting firewood from the recent tornadoes.
- Mr. Caney suggested that if you can get people doing what they like doing, they will be most likely to be receptive to new energy-saving ideas.

B. The Committee then turned to reviewing specific issues as set forth on the worksheet. The following measures were formally approved:

- **I-A-1: Requesting funds in the upcoming budget to pay for professional audits on all municipal buildings – or find other funding sources.**
 - - JoAnn Wood agreed to ask Chris Johnson and Bill Bayard who in NH Coop could give us a good sense of what a professional audit would cost
 - - Chris Williams is to talk to the Jordan Institute about getting an audit and, also, explore other grant-money opportunities.
- **II-A-1: Encouraging residents to switch to the new florescent bulbs** by holding a one-time 'sale' in the firehouse on election day (November 4)
 - - Ms. Wood is to check with NH Coop to see if that organization will provide low-cost (or free) bulbs and Mr. Caney will check prices at Costco
 - - Ms Mattson will check legalities of holding such a 'sale' in the firehouse on Election Day
- **II-B-1 & 2: Publicizing energy-related issues/opportunities** – like the light bulb program and, more significantly property-tax exemptions related to installation of alternative energy sources.
 - - We will begin regular publication of PSA's with
 - - Links to REALITYCHEC and other useful websites, like Carbon Coalition

At this point, the committee crumpled into a pathetic heap of exhaustion and by unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40. The next meeting will take place on September 18.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Wood
Secretary