

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes January 15, 2008

In attendance: Bob Larson, Dawn Lewis, Peter Bolduc and Cheryl Rowell

Meeting started at 7:05 PM at the Fremont Town Hall

❖ **Fremont's interface w/other "green" organizations:**

- Rockingham/Strafford Energy Alliance
 - Purpose is to provide a place for groups to learn and share information and to lobby the NH state government
 - Next meeting will take place in Durham on Jan. 16th at 6:30 PM. Bob plans on attending and will interact with members to gain helpful information (free energy audits and grants)
- Carbon Coalition – Dawn will call the contact again
- Governors Task Force on Climate Change – Bob has been invited to be on a working group for this - there are 6 groups. Anyone interested can volunteer by filling out a form. Bob noted that at this time the NH State government offers few incentives for reduction of energy consumption.

❖ **Develop Action Plan For Year 08**

- Professional energy audits are needed for each town building – hopefully at no cost -
- Will compile audit information and then meet with individual departments to formulate energy reduction plans
- Energy saving tips will continue each month in the Fremont Newsletter
 - March - Bob will put something in about tax credit savings and recycling
 - April: Cheryl will write something about calculating carbon footprints – include a link
- Post carpooling link on town website – (Dawn will send to Bob)

❖ **Ellis School: Up-date of Ellis School & Other green programs**

- Energy Costs for Ellis school for the 2006-2007 school year
 - \$36,657 for oil and \$56,383 for electric use
 - There have been improvements made for this fiscal year (motion sensor light switches, computer improvements, etc.) It is hoped that these will result in lower electricity use, but oil use may be similar and the costs will most likely be up.
- Further improvements for school:

- There was general discussion about grants for such things as solar panels/curtains
 - Cheryl will look into the NH moose plate grant to see if applicable.
 - Projects such as these would also be useful teaching tools
 - Bob Larson suggested a brainstorming session with Scott Brown (Ellis Facilities manager)
 - There are schools out there that have been very proactive in using alternative energy for ex. Kennebunk school district has received an award for improvements in energy use. Dawn will contact the superintendent to see what they have done and if they received any financial incentives for this.
 - Modifications such as solar can be modularized so could be added onto each year – and that the modifications would eventually help pay for themselves.
 - Other improvements that could be promoted at the school: recycling, carpooling, reusable drink containers,
- ❖ **Energy Fair Update**
- At this time there is nothing planned – possibly for the fall of 2008
 - Should make the fair a concerted effort with the town – not just school community
- ❖ **Energy Committee Organization**
- Should recruit more volunteers
 - At the next meeting there will be a vote on Chair and someone to take minutes
- ❖ **Planning Board**
- Will be meeting next week
 - Would like to make suggestions that there could be changes at the town government level – a good place to start is to make buildings more energy efficient and giving back to grid – include “green” policies in Fremont Master Plan
 - Hope to work with the PB to change the statutes or tax codes to give incentives to builders/homeowners for energy savings or alternative energy improvements. Families should not be taxed on these (i.e. the improvements need not be included in the assessment).
 - Allow wind turbines - even if taller than restricted height
- ❖ **Meeting adjourned** at ~9 PM. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19th, 2008 at the Town Hall.