

Report of the Energy Committee

The Fremont Energy Committee (FEC) is a volunteer group that began in 2007 to focus on public energy use and efficiency and to provide energy efficiency and incentive information to the public. In 2014 the FEC met on an approximate monthly basis and focused on three projects.

The first project was to prepare a request for proposal to replace the Town Hall heating system. Although the Town Hall has been updated with new windows and insulation to improve energy efficiency, the heating system has never been updated. The heating system, which consists of two furnaces, only one which is functional, is several decades old and the FEC and the Board of Selectmen are concerned that the heating system may fail during the heating season. In addition, the heating system cannot deliver heat to the top floor and its layout does not allow for individual control of different parts of the building on the basement and middle floor. The FEC considered different fuel options for the replacement system, including oil, propane, and wood pellets. For the latter, the FEC had a conference call with a representative of wood pellet boiler installer to obtain information on the operation and maintenance of wood pellet systems.

To obtain cost information on different types of heating systems, the FEC developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) that did not specify the heat source, but identified a set of performance requirements that each proposal must meet. The RFP also included upgrading the heat distribution system. Several responses to the RFP were received in October. Bob Meade, the Building Inspector, and the FEC reviewed the bids. The proposals varied considerably in the scope of work and pricing. Because of the wide range project scope and pricing, the Board of Selectmen opted to redevelop an RFP and contract for a mechanical engineering consultant to develop recommendations and a mechanical design for replacing the Town Hall heating system.

The second project was to identify an electricity supplier. The Town's current electricity supply contract with Integrys expires in February 2015. The Energy Committee prepared a Request for Proposal for a new electricity supply contract. Bids were received in October 2014. The Board of Selectmen met with the low bidder and locked in unit rates through November 2017.

The third project is ongoing and involves evaluation of installing solar panels on one of the Town's properties. A representative of a solar installation firm met with the FEC and the Board of Selectmen in January to present information on financial options for installation of solar systems by municipalities. The FEC evaluated the advantages and disadvantages of installing solar panels on the Safety Complex roof and the old landfill adjacent to the Highway Department facility. The latter site is serviced by NH Electric Coop. The remaining Town properties are serviced by PSNH. At year end the FEC is still assessing what options are available to the Town in order to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

The FEC is always interested in new members joining the group. Individuals who are interested in energy efficiency and have the time to meet monthly are encouraged to attend a meeting and see if becoming a part of the FEC is of interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Cordes Cheryl Rowell
Fremont Energy Committee

Cindy Crane Bob Larson



Fremont DARE Officer Greg Huard
with Miss Fremont
Amanda Arsenault

30 November 2014
Police Awards Ceremony

Fremont Police
Lieutenant Ellen Arcieri, Chief Jon Twiss
and Selectman Leon Holmes Sr



Photos courtesy of Mary Wheaton-Pinder
and Brett & Emelie Hunter