

Tamworth Volunteer Energy Committee
September 24, 2008 DRAFT Notes
Cook Memorial Library

TVEC Committee Attendees: Donna Veilleux, Cathy Mersfelder, Sam Sayers, Michelle Cleveland
Regrets: Peg and Lee Custer, Cimbria Badenhausen

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair, Donna Veilleux.

Agenda

1. There was no public comment.
2. Meeting minutes from August 6 & 27 could not be approved because TVEC did not have a quorum of members present.
3. TVEC Chair Report: Donna Veilleux
 - PSNH / Streetlights. Selectman W. Farnum and I met with K. Lewis and D. Bickford from PSNH on Sept. 18 at 10:30. Kathleen is the Community Relations Manager and David is the Division Manager for our Region. It was a very pleasant and informative meeting. Kathleen brought additional Tamworth street light data for discussion purposes. The meat of the discussion was the topic of the possibility of saving energy (money) on our monthly street light costs while addressing safety and security issues. In short, a street light conversion plan was discussed; this plan converts the street lighting from Municipal Outdoor Lighting Rate OL, to the Energy Efficient Outdoor Lighting Rate, EOL. PSNH will come to Tamworth, working with town officials and study the street light issue of the town... old ones, new ones, type of light, wattage, etc.... Tamworth presently has 80 street lights. This conversion *plan* is free and if a decision is made to follow through, PSNH will make available the SMART START PROGRAM to allow Tamworth to pay the plan to be implemented. Under this program, PSNH pays all of the costs associated with the conversion plan. A smart Start Delivery Charge, calculated to be no more than the monthly savings, is added to the monthly electric bill until all costs are repaid. PSNH will also calculate the buy back period. Tamworth may need to provide traffic control detail during the work if deemed a safety issue. Willie was to bring this to the BOS meeting that same evening for further discussion. Kathleen will be sending this committee a sample of such a contract. This may or may not be in the best interest of Tamworth but the conversation has begun. Discussion.
 - School Board Meeting and No Idling signs. On Sept. 10, I went to the School Board meeting. I briefly spoke of our efforts to lower idling in the town of Tamworth. I quickly reviewed our efforts thus far and asked if they would consider displaying free NO IDLING signs for parents and teachers... Mr. De Sousa did confirm that the buses do not idle. The unanimous vote was encouraging. They wish to have three small signs. They will need to be purchased with grant money. Discussion.
 - DES and NO IDLING signs. The most recent information I have received from DES is that the funding source is no longer and it appears there is no more waiting list. The small signs will be approx. \$17.00 each. Discussion.

Action Item: TVEC asked Donna to purchase additional signs (3 large and 5 small).

- I have followed through on calling our potential interested person. My message has not yet been answered. I suspect it is not a good time. I would recommend we wait for a reply before any further attempts. At this time, I am not able to nominate any new members...Discussion.
- I had a conversation with Willie about a possible representative from this committee to be part of the building committee for the new town garage. It appears the plans are well underway and rather basic in nature. I indicated that this committee we would be available if desired.

5. Sam Sayers' Report on TVEC at the Transfer Station

It was a great fall day on Saturday, September 20 to host the TVEC communication display. Several Tamworth citizens stopped by to introduce themselves to TVEC volunteers and see what this group was about. Sam recommended that TVEC host the display throughout the year.

6. Michelle Cleveland's Report: NEGEF and Post Office Communications

- NEGEF grantee fall 2008 conference: No TVEC member can attend.
- Review grant's goal and success indicators

TVEC Mission	NEGEF Goals	Success Indicators
Investigate the use of energy sources in the village districts		
Recommend local steps to conserve energy and reduce emissions	Develop and host an energy reduction information booth with demonstrations	Residents will develop an increased awareness of energy consuming sources that can: Modify consumption Encourage energy efficient purchases
Promote the use of renewable energy in public buildings, businesses and homes	Develop and host an energy reduction information booth with demonstrations	
Reach out to the villages through education	Research, purchase and place energy conservation information and products at Tamworth's two libraries	Attract additional talent to TVEC Stimulate a community exchange of energy conserving activities Draft a 2009 NEGEF application
Explore the creation of a Tamworth Energy plan	Develop and host an energy reduction information booth with demonstrations	Stimulate Tamworth residents to explore individual, organization, village level carbon reduction goals to be incorporated in a Tamworth Energy Plan

- Review NEGEF Budget: Revenue and Expense Spreadsheet (attachment to Minutes)

Action Item: Purchased two Watts Up Meters; Draft a communication document to approach Tamworth's libraries. Communication should include an attachment to explain why and how to use the meters. Michelle and Sam will do the first draft.

Communications with Regional Post Office re: NO IDLING Signage

Nancy Anderson, Postmaster, Tamworth Post Office has sent TVEC's request to post NO IDLING signs to the USPO NH regional office's Environmental Director.

Action Item: Donna will follow-up with Nancy Anderson.

7. Cathy Mersfelder's Check-In

There has not been an opportunity to talk with Claes Thelemarck about championing future TVEC project with Tamworth schools.

Action Item: Cathy will stay on this.

8. Exploring a new small grant opportunity: Northeast Utilities

PSNH Grant. This grant is due Oct. 15... Not much time, but this is a one-page grant. Would invite discussion on ideas and would suggest we apply for it.

Discussion. Complimenting our focus on energy conservation throughout the town/villages of Tamworth, Donna recommended that we approach Northeast Utilities to cover the cost of programmable thermostats for Tamworth's municipal buildings.

Action Item: TVEC will pursue.

Michelle will draft the grant and submit to BOS before the October 15 deadline. Donna will provide Selectmen notice about the grant opportunity and determine the number of programmable thermostats needed for Tamworth's 8 municipal buildings

9. Email protocol... between members, amongst members...?

Discussion. TVEC members working on initiatives as a team do not need to email the whole group, unless that is their preference.

10. November 4, 2008 and TVEC Activities?

Election Day Activities: Willie Farnum had indicated a concern about our presence in the Town House during Election Day. His concerns are safety, space, and flow of people traffic. He stressed how imperative it is to keep the flow of people moving.

Discussion. TVEC will not seek further permission to be at or around election day activities. We should consider hosting a TVEC table and NEGEF CFL distribution at the Town Meeting. Seek out and consider hosting a TVEC table at other community events.

Action Item: Someone will need to contact BOS and Chris Canfield, Tamworth Town Moderator, re: Town Meeting.

11. Upcoming Events

Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, September 26, 6-9 p.m.

Energy Fair at Kingswood High School on November 15

Get to ZeroCO2, conference in North Conway on November 14

12. Open Discussion Items

Article 22 / RSA 672:1

Discussion: TVEC needs to expend some of its time for conversation, presentation, discussion, etc with Tamworth's Planning Board (as it has accepted the new Master Plan for Public Comment sometime this fall) about Article 22 goals and activities.

Action Item: Donna will share a copy with Planning Board's Dom Bergen via email message to get the outreach started.

Energy / Turbines—no discussion

Old Dump's Methane—no discussion

13. New Business, Old Business, Next Meeting

Donna Veilleux will be moving to Madison and will need to resign from TVEC. However, her leadership has kept us focused on the mission and on task. TVEC expressed our thank yous, especially as she championed the Chair role while co-chair Cathy was on temporary leave. Cathy Mersfelder has graciously accepted the Chair role. Donna will tie up all open items and meet with Cathy to ready a smooth transition. Donna submitted a letter of resignation to the BOS effective November 1, 2008.

Donna donating 2 global climate DVD's she had from Tin Mountain to the Tamworth Libraries.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m., Cook Memorial Library

TVEC Meeting Adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Sam Sayers, October 10, 2008