

Draft Minutes
Voluntary Energy Committee

Dec. 18, 2007

Cook Memorial Library, Tamworth

Draft minutes to be reviewed and approved at a subsequent meeting.

Present: Cimbria Badenhausen, Peg Custer, Catherine Mersfelder, Sam Sayers, Donna Veilleux.

Not Present: Roland Custer

Meeting was called to order approximately 6:35 pm.

Committee member introductions:

Being our first official meeting and not having met all our fellow committee members, time was taken for each of us to introduce/and share our thoughts/motivations in joining this committee.

Discussion/Vote on committee member's roles:

After some discussion Donna Veilleux was voted to be Chair, Cathy Mersfelder voted to be Co-Chair and Peg Custer voted to be Secretary. all these votes were unanimous.

Review/Comment on draft proposal of "Procedures for Appointed Committees", per request of BOS.

It was agreed that the TCC had done such a fine job on their review of this proposal on Dec. 10 that no other outstanding editing was recommended. Donna will communicate this BOS.

Review of RSA 91: A, the Right to Know Law:

Due to committee members reviewing this document/policy/concept prior to this meeting, a long drawn discussion was not necessary. Clarifications on the basics tenants of the policy were reviewed. Discussion around public information, open meetings, posting meetings, minute taking and availability/forwarding to the town and others. Peg did inquire about hard copies being delivered to the town; she will clarify with Cassandra. It was agreed that we should keep a copy of this document in our folders. Cimbria offered folders to any of us who were in need. She is recycling folders and would love to find homes for them.

Mission Statement Discussion/Adoption/Review:

Cathy Mersfelder put together a working draft of the future work of this committee; addressing the Mission Statement, how we came to be, (Town vote on March 17, 2007) and some likely activities that we would be embarking upon. After discussion/review minor changes were made; Cathy will edit and send us a copy for our review/acceptance at our next meeting.

First Steps as a Committee:

There was a hearty discussion on the initial direction this committee should embark upon. It seems we all had very good ideas. Discussions addressed the how tos' about data collection; inventory, survey, evaluate; education, public resources for guidance and funding. Discussion about the role of the Planning Board and its' power to regulate through planning; RSA 672:1. This statute under 111-a. states that one of the central purposes of planning is to achieve the following through legislative action: Proper regulations encourage energy efficient patterns of development, the use of solar energy, including adequate access to direct sunlight for solar energy uses, the use of other renewable forms of energy and energy conservation. It was agreed that we would engage in data collection: It seems we all agree the auditing of town buildings would be a good start; Donna will work a getting a list of all town buildings: Cimbria will contact Public Service to get info on process. The information we will need in order to qualify for an audit is a years worth of electric bills and heating bills and the usable square footage of the building. We will need the approval of the BOS to begin retrieving this info. It was agreed that we should first clearly understand the process before asking the BOS anything. Cimbria shared with the committee a matrix some towns use to address the energy conservation issue. Committee members will review and prepare remarks for next meeting.

Other:

Cathy M. spoke of being invited to write an article about this committee for the Tamworth Civic News. Cathy volunteered to follow through on this. Each Committee member will email Cathy with an "energy saver" tid bit for her article. she will choose a few.

Donna will reserve a meeting place for our next meeting on Jan. 15, at 6:30 pm, will post the meeting, email Peg with email addresses, will mail agenda/homework for next meeting before hand.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Cimbria B, seconded by Cathy M. all approved 8:27pm

Draft minutes respectfully submitted by Donna Veilleux, acting secretary,
Dec. 22, 2007