

Minutes of EEC Meeting March 10, 2010

Present: Jenny Isler, Charlie Case, Jack Murphy, Ed Henningsen, Mike Eardley

Guest: Garry Dow, Community Outreach Coordinator for the New England Carbon Challenge

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM

February Minutes were approved

Garry Dow from the New England Carbon Challenge joined us to help us get citizen engagement.

He explained that the Carbon Challenge Program is four years old and is operated by a partnership between UNH (responsible for technology) and Clean Air Cool Planet (responsible for outreach). It was established to help communities work with citizens and businesses. The Town has estimated that there are 2800 homes and 330 businesses in Eliot, although many of the businesses are likely home occupations. Clean Air Cool Planet has a home energy calculator and carbon footprint estimator that can help homeowners make energy reductions and save money. The energy calculator also makes suggestions for the homeowner. School kids can help and teachers can build this into the curriculum. Based on experience, the most successful approach would be to target affinity groups such as municipal employees, school families, and faith communities. The EEC would decide which groups would be appropriate. Typical response has been 10 – 15% of households. Most people can see a 20% energy reduction over 1 – 3 months. The Carbon Challenge worked with the City of Portsmouth through Peter Britz to get 60% of municipal employees participating. The program would provide Eliot real time summary data that could be shown on the Town web site. Membership cost for the Town is \$100 and is good for one year. Other Towns who have signed up for the Carbon Challenge include Rye, Portsmouth, Nashua, Hanover, Concord, Keene and 12 towns in western Massachusetts.

The EEC could kick off the Carbon Challenge at the Library this September.

KEYS Meeting Report from March 8, 2010 – Ed Henningsen

The KEYS application for a grant of \$500,000 under the ARRA Efficiency Maine Block Grant Program was selected for funding. The program will include

1. A revolving loan fund to make low interest loans to individual homeowners and small business owners for energy efficiency projects with loans being made to applicants in all income categories and on an all fuels basis. Loans will be structured so that repayment is based on the energy savings realized by the homeowner or small business owner. Applicant properties will be required to undergo an energy audit by a certified energy auditor. The energy audit will identify efficiency projects and priorities for the applicant properties. Energy audits will note when and if advanced technologies are appropriate.

2. A program to train energy efficiency professionals in areas including solar PV, solar thermal and solar hot air. This program, centered at YCCC, will engage local building contractors and trade unions for training and apprenticeship opportunities.

3. A marketing/outreach/education effort to publicize the program administered through local energy committees in the participating towns. This would include a region-wide energy efficiency competition for homeowners and small business owners along with a web site with information about the program and related resources, energy workshops and forums, and printed material and exhibits.

Ed reported that there will be a meeting with Efficiency Maine on Monday March 15 to find out how to get the funding. Each Town will select a delegate and an alternate to the steering committee. It was voted that the EEC would propose to the Board of Selectmen that Ed would be the delegate and Mike would be the alternate. Jenny will send a letter to the Board of Selectmen for their approval. The steering committee will decide how the program will work to achieve the grant goals including procedures, checks and balances. There is an outfit from Biddeford that will be administering the loan program and they were present at the KEYS meeting.

Other information from KEYS; Kittery is planning an earth day on April 24th at Autoworks and Ed will do a 30 minute talk on energy audits. York is planning a green fair on April 25th.

Energy Baseline Report from Charlie and Mike

We are very close but are still missing some vehicle fuel, harbormaster, and heating oil gallons for the Library. The vehicle data comes from Norma Jean Spinney and is diesel and gasoline we buy at a special rate from Irving Oil. The Library gallons is bought from Gagnon. The baseline inventory so far was reviewed. Jenny said she would rather wait until the baseline is complete before distributing it to the Board of Selectmen. Ed commented that we should use a baseline of 65 degrees for heating degree days instead of 68 since 65 is the industry standard. Charlie commented that he compared electricity usage between CY06 and FY09. All areas were reduced except for the Sewer Pumps and the Police Station. It may be that the HVAC system at the Police Station got worse after it was adjusted several years ago. Also the Sewer Pump increase will continue as volume is going up. Charlie agreed to continue collecting the last of the data and Mike agreed to create a preliminary version of the charts for the Board of Selectmen.

ARRA Grant Award to Eliot – Jenny

All were pleased that Eliot was selected by the State to receive a \$10,000 grant under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. This award will help fund these activities;

1. Creation of a sub-Committee to include representation from the town government and school community.

2. Conduct an updated, comprehensive Municipal Energy Use and Emissions Inventory to enable tracking of year-to-year improvements and fully calculate greenhouse gas emissions. Establish overall and specific target improvements based on inventory results.
3. Conduct professional analyses as needed on municipal operations with high or disproportionate energy use and determine cost-benefit options to achieve target improvements. Professional analysis may include complete energy audits, systems and building inspections, fuel use comparison studies, etc.
4. Create a prioritized Action Plan to address overall and specific target improvements.
5. Seek funding sources to support Action Plan items.
6. Engage the residential and business community in Eliot's energy and emission reduction efforts.
7. Present our goals and achievements to the community during Eliot Festival Days. The Eliot Energy Commission booth will also include educational literature, informative handouts with tips, alternate energy and energy efficiency demonstrations, sample products, resource lists, the municipal inventory, and interactive displays.

Meeting Adjourned 9 PM