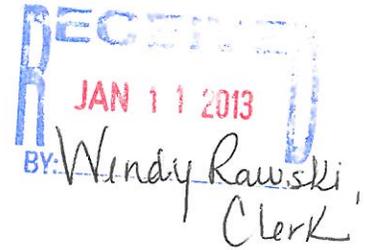


EEC Meeting Minutes March 14, 2012

Present: Charlie Case, Ed Henningsen, Ben Brickett

Guest: Jack Murphy (BOS Liaison)

Call to Order 4:40 PM



A. Approval of February Minutes postponed due to lack of a quorum

B. SEI Loan Program Update, Further Audits, and Energy Improvements – Jack Murphy, Charlie Case and Ed Henningsen attended an SEI Meeting in S. Berwick today to understand the future of the rotating loan fund. 500K was granted by Efficiency Maine to six towns (S. Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, York and N. Berwick) funded by the USDOE under the ARRA program. Unused funds not loaned out will need to be sent back to the federal government this fall, so town representatives met to determine how unused funds could be put to good use. As of today, \$325K is not committed to loans, but there are applications or potential applications in process.

As the Town Manager of the lead town (S. Berwick), Perry Elsworth has the authority to determine program changes and plans to divvy up unallocated grant funds (as of May 1) to the participating towns for energy projects that are defined and ready to go. Eliot completed energy audits of the Town Hall, Fire Station and Police Station during 2011 and has well defined prioritized energy saving projects. The EEC plans to complete energy audits on the Town Garage and Transfer Station shortly and Ed will coordinate those. This is a great opportunity to fund needed energy improvement projects without a substantial investment by the town.

Ed will coordinate our final list of projects to present first to the BOS and then to the lead town. Charlie will discuss further improvements to the Police Station with Chief Short. Ben will look at the possibility of including an alternate energy project. It was agreed that Jack and Ed will brief the BOS at their meeting tomorrow (March 15, 2012).

C. Municipal Solar and Wind Power Discussion – Ben will contact Joel Moulton (Public Works Director) to hopefully work with the EEC to set up a solar and wind power “open house” and demonstration at the Transfer Station in early April to spur interest in alternate energy with residents. Costs have steadily decreased over the last several years. With the cost of energy increasing, the payback on alternate energy is looking much better. It is believed that the Transfer Station is a convenient site for a demonstration because residents would not need to make a special trip to see it. The Transfer Station is also a good site for a municipal alternate power installation for either solar or wind. The possibility of additional ARRA grant funding for Eliot may make an alternate energy installation possible without an up front investment by the town. Ben will contact local solar installers next week for preliminary discussions.

D. EECBG Grant Closeout – Additional reporting requirements were received from Efficiency Maine resulting from extensive detailed audits of the EECBG program by USDOE auditors. Charlie will complete all required reports.

E. Eco Maine Award for the EEC Mar 7, 2012 – The EEC was nominated by the BOS for an award from Eco Maine a nonprofit municipally-owned single-sort recycling and waste-to-energy operation. Dan Blanchette, Jack Murphy, Charlie Case, and Jenny Isler (former EEC chair) attended. The following was read:

The Eliot Energy Commission has won the 2012 Community eco-Excellence Award for the Town of Eliot. The commission, which was nominated by the Board of Selectmen, took on the task of reducing the town's carbon footprint. The commission was formed because, "Climate change, energy use, and energy efficiency are all issues that require attention at multiple levels of society. Our climate action plan is directed at the town level, which falls in between the sweeping legislative decisions made by the federal government at the highest level, and the day-to-day decisions made by individuals on the lowest level. The Town of Eliot, Maine, can responsibly and efficiently run town buildings, encourage alternative energy and energy efficiency among residents, and provide information to residents on this issue."

To this end, the commission has conducted energy audits and, according to the findings, made appropriate changes; as a result, the Town Office has experienced a reduction in heating oil use. They have also created ongoing programs to raise public awareness, provide education, and were instrumental in starting the Seacoast Energy Initiative Loan Program in 2011.

F. EEC Submission for Town Report – It was agreed that the following should be submitted for the annual town report:

The Mission of the Eliot Energy Commission (EEC) is to promote increased energy conservation, efficiency and local energy production throughout the Town of Eliot. Town Energy Policies and Strategies were written by the EEC and included in the Town's Comprehensive Plan. These energy policies are: a) Reduce municipal dependence on fossil fuels, b) Promote sustainable municipal building practices, c) Consider sustainability as a primary factor in all municipal capital expenditures, and d) Encourage community participation in energy conservation and policies. The EEC is drafting a town Climate Action Plan as a roadmap to accomplish these energy policies. We believe that a goal of 20% municipal energy reduction by 2020 is feasible and necessary to ensure Eliot's future.

Our meetings are held at Town Hall on the second Wednesday of the month. All members of the public are welcome to join our meetings and help with our work. We welcome additional energy (the human kind) to help with current projects and start new ones. If you are interested in energy issues, please join us at a meeting to learn more. You do not need to be a committee member to help on a project or share your input. We now have three openings on the Commission. One of our members has developed new technology for reliably generating wind power at low wind speeds, and with fewer moving parts than conventional designs.

A comprehensive Baseline Municipal Energy Use and Emissions Inventory was compiled for FY 09 (July 1, 2008 to June 30 2009). This detail inventory has enabled us to determine the causes of high energy usage as well as solutions. A level 2 audit was performed on the Town Hall in 2009 which led to the installation of more insulation and lowering of the ceiling in the main meeting room. These

improvements enabled a 30% reduction in heating oil usage and a 21% reduction in electricity usage in FY11. 2011 efforts to improve the HVAC system at the Police Station were successful and we expect to see a substantial reduction in energy usage starting in FY12.

In 2011, we conducted professional audits on three municipal buildings; the Police Station, the Town Hall and the Fire Station. A prioritized Action Plan was created to address overall and specific target improvements on the three buildings selected. These audits were funded by a \$10,000 ARRA grant from the Efficiency Maine Trust through a successful EEC application effort.

The EEC has worked to make energy improvement loans available to the community both through PACE and the multi town Seacoast Energy Initiative Loan Program funded by an ARRA grant from the Efficiency Maine Trust. Community outreach has also included Festival Day, Voting Day, and a Carbon Challenge with 27 families changing behaviors resulting in a savings of 54,000 lb of CO2 and \$7,500 per year.

A report on energy accomplishments, successes and opportunities was presented to the Board of Selectmen on February 9, 2012 along with a complete three year energy inventory.

G, Climate Action Plan Update – This discussion was postponed to a later meeting.

Adjourned 6:00 PM

*Approved Jan 9, 2013  
Charles A. Case*