

**Town Of Sandwich**  
**Energy Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting – February 7, 2008**  
(Approved March 6, 2008)

Overview

This was the first group meeting of the Sandwich Energy Committee. The Selectmen appointed 9 voting members, 2 alternates, and 2 open alternate positions yet to be filled. Selectman Randy Hunt and Assistant Town Administrator Douglas Lapp attended the first portion of the meeting to get members settled. Town Clerk Barbara Walling swore in individual members of the Committee and gave them copies of the Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting Laws. The Committee agreed the first order of business would be to elect officers and set a schedule for future meetings.

Attendance: Damien Houlihan, John Shane, Kevin Burgess, Robert Gottsche, Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig, Charles Kleekamp, Anna Burroughs-Merrill, Jorgen Birkeland, Kathleen Yetman, Eric Nelson. Absent: Thomas Doherty.

Votes Taken

Article 1: Appointment of Chairperson. Proposed by several members that Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig be appointed Chairperson. Seconded by Charles Kleekamp. Vote: unanimous.

Article 2: Appointment of Vice-Chairperson. Proposed that Eric Nelson be appointed Vice-Chairperson. Seconded by several members. Vote: unanimous.

Article 3: Appointment of Clerk. Proposed that Anna Burroughs-Merrill be appointed Clerk. Seconded by several members. Vote: unanimous.

Article 4: Schedule for Future Meetings. Proposed by Chairperson Gregorio-Tanguilig that the Committee meet in the Recreation Department of the Human Services Building the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., with no meetings the months of July and December. Seconded by several members. Vote: unanimous.

General Discussion

Energy Committee Website: Damian Houlihan inquired about the procedure for posting articles of public interest on the town website. For now, have the Chairperson forward to Douglas Lapp for posting.

Town Meeting: Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig inquired of Selectman Randy Hunt if the Committee could help the Forestdale School children set up tri-folds at the May Town Meeting regarding their solar panel project at that school.

Energy Audit: Anna Burroughs-Merrill requested Selectman Randy Hunt and Assistant Planner Douglas Lapp forward a copy of an "Energy Audit" mentioned in the Alternative Energy Initiative Staff Assessment and Recommendations done last October to the Committee for their review.

John Shane questioned if Committee members had had an opportunity to read the Staff Report. Most members have already read it.

Jorgen Birkeland questioned who does the Energy Audits and whether they were also available for fossil fuels such as propane or natural gas?

Charles Kleekamp informed the committee that the Cape Light Compact does free energy audits for any Cape Resident, including the Town.

Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig would like to examine how thorough the Energy Audit that was done is. She recommends the town undertake other audits, such as ones conducted by the EPA and the ICLEI, to fill in any gaps.

Damien Houlihan works for the EPA and is familiar with the audit people. The audit is totally free. The EPA is pushing towns to sign up. According to a conversation he had with audit personnel, the town pool located at the high school would be the best place (cost vs. benefit) to install a solar hot water system.

Other Towns' Alternative Energy Projects: Charles Kleekamp suggested instead of reinventing the wheel, it would be prudent to look at how the Town of Yarmouth recently installed 10Kw photovoltaic cells on town hall. He believes Peter White (a Yarmouth private citizen who put the article on the ballot at Town Meeting) might be willing to come in to speak to the Committee and give ideas. He also wants to consult with the Town of Orleans to find out why their proposed turbine failed to garner support.

Damien Houlihan suggested we look at the Town of Hull as a case study for wind turbines. He would also like to gather information from other towns about their alternative energy projects. He would like to see the town get a large turbine similar to what they have at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Jorgen Birkeland would like detailed information about the economics of any proposed projects in "real" costs, not just phantom "savings." He suggests the Committee focus on town-owned facilities and sites such as the water pumps, along Route 6, and the canal.

John Shane inquired if other Committee members had had an opportunity to review the Sandwich Town Report on Alternative Energy. He would like to talk to other towns' energy committees. Also, he believes the committee should "triage" which alternative energy projects the Committee deems most appropriate and work on the highest priority projects first.

Other Energy Issues: Jorgen Birkeland inquired if the Mirant Canal Electric Plant was planning any expansion onto the land about to be vacated by the freezer plant scheduled to be torn down? Is this land something the committee should look into?

Bob Gottsche explained he is not privy to that information. However, he is aware that the oil-fired generation is not as competitive as compared to other generating sources right now due to high oil prices. A few years ago when oil was lower, oil was competitive. The U.S. Department of Energy has websites that explain where each fuel source comes from."

Charles Kleekamp explained how kilowatts from renewable resources such as solar and wind power replace kilowatts from the most expensive fuel source, such as oil. Oil plants are not competitive right now due to high fuel costs and cannot compete in the open market, so very few are operating at capacity. He explained how Cape Wind could generate that percentage of renewable energy.

Anna Burroughs-Merrill requested committee member Charles Kleekamp forward a copy of a newspaper article he had written several months ago explaining that topic to other committee members as it explains the mechanics of kilowatt hour competition in the energy market in such a way that it is easily understood.

Charles Kleekamp warned that the nation is running out of natural gas and also that some of the LNG-producing countries are worse than OPEC.

Robert Gottsche informed the committee of emerging technology he had heard about which would allow the manufacture of lower-cost solar panels using non-traditional materials. Several committee members have heard of such research and stated it would be a good topic for further research.

Proposed Topics for Next Meeting: (subject to change prior to posting of an official Agenda):

Finalize Mission Statement – Committee

Energy Topics – Committee

Review Energy Audit – Committee

EPA Challenge – Damien Houlihan will do a presentation about this topic.

MTC Solar Incentive Program – Damien Houlihan

Commonwealth Solar Program – Kathleen Yetman will do a presentation

Meet w/ Assistant Town Engineer, Samuel Jensen (if possible)

Adjournment: Chairperson Gregorio-Tanguilig moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion seconded by Charles Kleekamp. Unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., Recreation Department of Human Services Building.