

**Town Of Sandwich
Energy Committee
Minutes of Meeting – May 1, 2008**

Approved by full SEC - June 5, 2008

Attendance: Voting: Jorgen Birkeland, Kevin Burgess, Anna Burroughs-Merrill, Thomas Doherty, Robert Gottsche, Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig, Damien Houlihan, Eric Nelson, Kathleen Yetman. Not Present: Charles Kleekamp.

Guest attendees: Kathy Siranosian, Sarah Murray, Selectman Randy Hunt.

Votes Taken

Article 1: Motion to approve April 3, 2008 Minutes proposed by Chairperson Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig. Seconded by Jorgen Birkeland. Vote: unanimous.

Article 2: Motion to form three (3) working sub-committees to research select energy topics loosely divided into the general categories of Energy Production, Efficiency, and Public Outreach (the formal names to be decided by each sub-committee at a later date) made by Damien Houlihan. Seconded by Kathy Yetman. Vote: unanimous.

Article 3: Motion made by Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig to recommend the Board of Selectmen send a letter of interest to the U.S. EPA Community Energy Challenge. Seconded by Eric Nelson. Vote: unanimous.

General Discussion

Housekeeping Topics: Annual elections for officers of the Energy Committee will be held in August. Nominations will be made next month. Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig wishes to step down as chairperson on July 31st and proceed as a regular voting member.

Announcements: The Cape Light Compact Cape-Wide Energy Committee Breakfast will be held on May 28, 2008 from 7-10 a.m. (morning) at the Sandwich Hollows Golf Course clubhouse. All SEC members are invited. Coffee and a light breakfast will be served. This is an opportunity for the SEC to learn from the experiences of other Cape-wide energy committees.

Liason Meetings: Robert Gottsche spoke with Doug Lapp regarding the Town Hall renovation project, particularly the availability of Cape Light Compact funds for energy efficiency. The town has used Cape Light Compact funds in the past. Bob will continue to work with them as needed to add energy efficiency benchmarks into the scope of the RFP bid.

Anna Burroughs-Merrill was asked to contact Sandwich Hollows Golf Course decision-makers about the possibility of using geothermal ground source heat pump technology in the upgrade of their heating system.

Article 18 of Town Warrant: Article 18 proposes discussing whether the town should join the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative. Net metering has not yet passed at the state level, has undergone extensive changes since first proposed, and is stalled in committee. Passage of the net metering law as originally proposed was assumed when putting this warrant on the ballot. Without net metering in place,

joining the Cooperative could have unanticipated effects. The SEC discussed issues such as benefits to the town in joining without net metering in place versus unknown costs to ratepayers. Although it is more difficult to produce energy without joining the Cooperative, it is not impossible. The SEC would like to study the issue in more depth once the amended net metering law passes (or fails to pass) at the statehouse before committing the town to join. Selectman Randy Hunt said he would discuss this with the Selectmen and recommend they postpone the article until the SEC has updated information.

SEC Updates to the Selectmen: Randy Hunt was asked how often the Selectmen would like updates from the SEC? The Selectmen would like to have an update whenever major work begins to pile up.

Public Outreach: Two SEC members were highlighted in local newspapers this past week regarding their efforts to bring energy conservation to the attention of the general public. Eric Nelson was featured on the front page of the Sandwich Broadside Wednesday regarding his work to create a recycling program in the schools. Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig was interviewed by the Sandwich Enterprise regarding her solar kids' project at the Forestdale School (S.P.I.T.) and is slated to be featured in tomorrow's edition. SPIT will be doing a solar presentation in the lobby of next week's Town Meeting.

SEC Subcommittee Organization Structure: The SEC discussed the formation of subcommittees to more efficiently divide up the enormous amount of work the board needs to do. Getting the entire 13-member board (10 members currently serving) together more than once per month is inefficient. Damien Houlihan proposes three general categories, Energy Production, Efficiency, and Outreach. Charles Kleekamp, who could not attend tonight, had forwarded a suggestion of topics similar to this proposal. Subcommittees will essentially be "work groups" to research topics and pull things together for the full SEC to later consider. Topics will change as projects are researched and new items come to the forefront. The SEC discussed who would like to be on which subcommittee. Members can serve on as many subcommittees as they like, either as voting members or alternates, or attend other subcommittee meetings to offer their input as desired. Members can also change subcommittees if their area of expertise is needed for a certain project. The general categories are not intended to be "hard" categories, but rather a way for committee members with similar areas of expertise to get work done on a desired project in as efficient a manner as possible. Subcommittees are intended to be informal, fluid and changing to meet the needs of the SEC. Subcommittee meetings should be posted so interested parties and the public may attend and offer input. Each subcommittee must appoint its own chairperson, take minutes, and meet at a public place. It also has its own quorum. To post meetings, contact Diane at Town Hall (508) 888-5144. SEC members volunteered to serve on the following subcommittees:

Outreach	Efficiency	Production
Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig	Jorgen Birkeland	Kevin Burgess
Eric Nelson	Anna Burroughs-Merrill	Robert Gottsche
	Tom Doherty	Damien Houlihan
	Kathy Yetman	Charles Kleekamp

Procedure for New SEC Members: Several members of the public have expressed an interest in joining the SEC (two are present tonight). There are currently 3 open seats for alternates available. It was recommended that interested parties attend a second regular SEC meeting. The SEC will then notify the Board of Selectmen that they would like them to nominate these new members to the SEC. The Selectmen will then vote on that nomination.

Energy Audit and Clean Energy Choice Updates: Kathy Yetman reported to the SEC her efforts to clarify questions the SEC still had after last month's meeting. Questions were as follows:

- *Can the town use Clean Energy Choice funds to hire an intern to gather and enter data for ICLEI and/or EPA programs?* Yes. The town must justify funds will be spent for activities related to renewable energy. As long as the town makes the case that the funds will be spent to help it explore renewable energy opportunities, it can receive CEC funds to meet the town's efficiency goals. The SEC discussed where we could find an intern. Check if interns available through the Environmental Technology Course at the High School or via the EPA. Request for funds through Clean Energy Choice must be made by the Selectmen.
- *Can MTC Community Wind funds be used towards an actual wind turbine, or just a feasibility study?* The MTC provides the services, up to \$50K for a feasibility study, up to \$15K for business planning (economic study), and up to \$150K to support actual development. *REC contracts?* MTC will guarantee to buy back up to \$1.2 million per megawatt generated up to 3 megawatts. The SEC discussed that Falmouth did their feasibility study through the MTC.
- *Does MTC help with permitting?* The MTC helps study the feasibility of a project, including the potential of securing permits. However, it does not pay for the permit process itself.
- *Can MTC funds be used for a small (i.e., 1.5 Kw) wind turbine?* Yes. MTC has only handled large turbines to date, but small ones are eligible.
- *What do we need to do to get more extensive efficiency studies of town buildings? How much will it cost?* Ask CLC to have RISE come back in to two sites for a more comprehensive audit. Should pick 2 sites for audit. Audit is free. CLC contributes up to \$75,000 per project. SEC discussed best sites for optimal savings. Target those that have potential. Which subcommittee should identify audit sites? Efficiency will. Did RISE already audit the pool at the high school? Kathy Yetman and Tom Doherty are willing to research/view candidate buildings before the next meeting and suggest audit candidates.

Correspondence: Mike Aiello sent a letter asking if the SEC had considered installing variable speed drive motors at the high school pool? The SEC discussed that this would be a good place to look for energy cost savings.

Upcoming Conferences: Barbara Shaner forwarded notice of an ICLEI Municipal Climate Adaptation Workshop to be held on May 30, 2008 from 9:30a.m.-4:30p.m. at Northeastern University in Boston. The MTC and Solar Boston forwarded notice of a conference about Third-Party Ownership of Photo Voltaic Panels. Committee members will try to attend as their schedules permit.

NEED Conference Summary: Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig and Anna Burroughs-Merrill both attended the NEED conference in Hyannis. Was geared more towards teachers teaching energy topics to children than to energy committees. Songs by Tom Chapin, who played at the conference, would be a fun teaching tool to promote conservation mindedness in kids.

ICLEI vs. EPA Challenge: EPA appears to be a good program to enter data and get a quick overview of a towns' energy footprint in town-owned buildings, helps set goals to reduce consumption. ICLEI uses the same data, but is much more extensive, going into things such as fleet management, garbage, and the towns' carbon footprint, more comprehensive. EPA doesn't appear to include fleet management. EPA is free to join. ICLEI costs \$600. The SEC discussed that the EPA portfolio manager is easy to use, a good start leading into ICLEI. ICLEI sent Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig a handout outlining what each (EPA and ICLEI) covers. ICLEI appears to meld with and build upon the EPA challenge. Selectmen want fleet management data. Jorgen Birkeland has prior experience with fleet management, wants to research quality of ICLEI fleet management tools. SEC voted to recommend Selectmen join EPA Challenge (see vote notes). Anna Burroughs-Merrill appointed to bring issue before Selectmen, Kathy will forward a copy of the EPA form letter to join. SEC wants more information about how good the ICLEI project is before recommending joining. ICLEI willing to come down and speak to the SEC, answer questions.

Laura will set up meeting. SEC members with specific questions should send them to Laura, who will forward them to ICLEI representative prior to the meeting. Jorgen Birkeland will review the Falmouth ICLEI study. Kathy Yetman agreed to look into whether CEC funds could be used to pay the \$600 entry fee for ICLEI.

Fleet Management: The SEC discussed what the committee could do to help the town better manage its fleet of vehicles. Anna Burroughs-Merrill forwarded internet articles covering hybrid police cars, taxis and buses to committee members prior to the meeting. Sandwich doesn't have municipal bus or taxi service. Very few credible scientific studies documenting economics and/or one class of fleet vehicles versus "green" alternatives (i.e., police, fire, building inspector, DPW, etc.). Could only find one Department of Energy study on diesel/electric buses. Internet articles largely self-promotion by the auto industry. Appears to be reluctance on the part of police departments to adopt hybrid vehicles. Small vehicles, such as the Prius, may not be suitable as "pursuit" vehicles. Larger hybrid vehicles, such as the hybrid Ford Explorer, only had marginal fuel efficiency gains. Lexus hybrids in London well-received by police, but expensive. Simply changing from a V8 to a V6 pursuit vehicles may have the same fuel savings at a much lower cost. University police departments reported liking their Prius hybrids, but municipal police departments resisted adopting them. Jorgen Birkeland has prior experience researching fleet efficiency, recalls study by MIT. He will try to locate and forward link to SEC. The SEC discussed local producers of restaurant oil to biofuel, concerns about converting food crops to ethanol, soil depletion, cradle-to-grave carbon footprint issues, and the lack of progress on a viable hydrogen fuel cell car. Which vehicles in town might need replacing in the near future and would be good candidates for an alternative fuel-source vehicle?

Bring Your Bike to Work Day: Friday, May 16, 2008 has been declared bring your bike to work day. Too late for SEC to promote a community-wide event *this* year, but committee should consider promoting a town-wide event for town citizens and employees *next* year.

Recycling: Eric Nelson is helping the schools join the Mass DEP Green Team. Maintaining quality control over what's being thrown into the recycle bin, the cost to transfer recyclables to the end user, and where the recyclables should be stored are concerns. ABIDITE pays towns to haul away their paper and handles the whole process, but they don't have a route down to Cape Cod yet.

Public Comments: Kathy Siranosian informed the SEC that Clay Scoffield of the Cape Cod Commission is going to be visiting the decision-making authority in every Cape town to promote flex fuel (not corn ethanol) vehicles. An entire fleet of rental cars in Arizona use flex fuel. The SEC should request that the Selectmen inform them when Mr. Scoffield contacts them to speak so they can attend. Also, Ms. Siranosian offered to forward an electronic copy of an article she read in MIT Technology Review magazine regarding ethanol (corn, biomass, etc.) to the SEC.

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

ICLEI Conference Q&A
Nomination of FY 2009 officers
Various Energy Topics – Committee members

Adjournment: Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Kathy Yetman. Unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 5, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., Recreation Department of Human Services Building.