

Gilmanton Energy Committee
Agenda
May 26th 2010
6:00 p.m.

Approval of last meeting minutes

CDFA low interest loan for efficiency. This is something that if we want to take advantage of we should not be dragging our feet. Though the May 4th conference was oversold and we could not attend my discussion with them is that attending that conference is not mandatory to submitting an application. They have \$1.5 million to loan and there are ALLOT of towns interested. If we want to take advantage of this we need to make a decision ASAP on bringing this to the Selectman.

1. **RFPs for the Academy building.** If we want to get workable costs for the Academy retrofit we certainly should move forward with RFPs. However there is alot more to this than telling Tim Warren to issue an RFP toover hall the Academy building. Since the work can be broken out in specific trade specialties we need to decide if we want to break up the work for individual RFPs for each trade specially. We also need to make sure the RFPs specify specific standards and that work is subject to quality assurance inspections. The Audit Report for the Academy building already have very specific details of what needs to be done and where along with the measured Sq-ft of materials to install along with the calculated savings for the improvements. The "Thermal Boundary" report section of the audit is intended to be turned into an RFP for the work to be performed. If you don't have one I can provide more copies on disk. Once the costs are pegged down I can make some return on investment calculations based on the savings from the energy model of the Academy building.
2. **New Grant opportunities.** There are new grant opportunities and we need to discuss them and make a plan on getting *ahead* of the timeline. It would be great if someone can do a little research on the new grants and brief us at the next meeting so we can be one step ahead.
3. **Town Baseline Report** This is nice but it doesn't tell us anything we don't already know. The Academy Building is an Energy Hog along with the Town Hall. This report is a compilation of the energy bills and comparing the energy usage on a sq-ft basis to similar national and NH buildings. We need to have a clear concept of how we want to use Clean Air Cool Planet to help the town. Basically we want to get a free audit of the Town Hall, since the Fire Department building will shortly be vacated. Something to understand about Clean Air / Cool Planet, they are a non-profit that has received RGGI funds. Their objective is carbon emission reductions. This for the most part goes hand in hand with reduced fuel consumption. However I believe our objective as a committee should be making decisions that will save the town the most money, with monetary savings first and carbon reductions second. This is where we may differ from Clean Air / Cool Planet; they will push investments that have the biggest carbon savings per dollar where we want the biggest financial return for our dollars spent.
4. **SmartStart** - Since we moved forward in recommending SmartStart we should have a briefing each meeting of how that is going. This is a very good deal for the Town. Lighting improvements are fairly strait forward. However what Lightec does not tell you in their report is that total energy savings is not as high as they list. Their report only lists savings specific for lighting and not on the savings of the building as a whole. Efficient lighting produces less heat and the winter heating fuel burn for the buildings with the lighting retrofits will increase. The fuel oil burn for the Academy building is expected to increase by **272 gallons** with the efficient lighting package. This should not make a change to the decisions but certainly is a consideration. Lightec does not forward this information since they want to *sell* their lighting package.
5. **NHEC Municipal Assistance programs.** NHEC still has opportunities to conduct building shell work and this is separate from their SmartStart program. We should discuss if we want to participate.

6. **New Safety building.** We need to discuss specifics on what we want to do for energy improvements, minor expenditures now can result in huge energy savings for the future. We need to know if the building is to be built under the latest energy code that is being phased in throughout the state or is it planned to be built under the older code. That difference alone can be as much as 10-15% difference in efficiency. There are whole lot of things that can be done during the construction phase to reduce energy consumption. This ranges from the type of insulation to the methods used to frame / construct the building. There are new framing methods that significantly reduce material and waste along with providing a shell that is 10 – 12% more efficient, but builders are slow to incorporate them because “they have been doing it the same way for 30 years”. Slight orientation changes (which may be too late) can make a big difference for capturing passive solar heat. It’s too bad the committee wasn’t involved with this building from the beginning. Just providing recommendations early on that contractor’s proposals include expected annual energy costs along with how they were calculated could have been a big help.

Discussion to result in recommendations to assist our code enforcement officer to obtain training on the residential and commercial 2009 IECC (if he hasn’t done so)

7. Discussion to result in recommendations to the code enforcement officer on specific options available within the 2009 IECC code to determine compliance.

- NE grassroots grant application
- Master plan
- Update from Nate on new safety building
- Open discussion