

ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes for November 19, 2007

Submitted by Stephanie Herlihy

Members Present: Nate Wilson, Skip Trudeau, Les Hammond, Stephanie Herlihy

Absent: Katie McDonald, Lindsay Herlihy, Margaret Watkins, George Holt, Matt Virta, Kris Hanson

Meeting Minutes:

There was no formal October committee meeting as we had a guest speaker at the library, open to the public, which took the place of our monthly meeting. **Joanne Morin** from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) presented a slide show on the 'Climate Change Impacts' and what we can do to reduce climate change. Unfortunately, it was not well attended because of the short notice and lack of adequate publicity. Committee members present were Margaret Watkins, Kris Hanson, and Stephanie Herlihy. There were four members of the public in attendance. The presentation was very informative and will definitely be repeated in the future with better planning and publicity. Thanks to Kris Hanson for the work involved in setting up this public event.

Discussion was held regarding how to get the town involved in energy conservation. The following are ideas that were brainstormed:

1. Nate offered to address the Planning Board about tax exemptions for wind, solar, and hydro power. After doing some research, Nate found that the state allows for these three exemptions but Dunbarton allows only solar. Zoning limits structures to 35 ft. but wind towers need to be above the tree line to be effective. Can the limits have different set backs to accommodate towns people to build towers to take advantage of wind resources? We also discussed ways to make resources available to help the Zoning and Planning Boards to become greener. Nate will try to get on the January Planning Board agenda to address these issues.
2. Stephanie informed the board about the library's bulletin board. Kris and Stephanie created an informational display at the library to inform the public about 'carbon imprints' with an interactive display and plenty of handouts available.
3. Earth Day was discussed with the possibility of this committee getting involved with Dunbarton Elementary School. We talked about putting up a display concerning energy conservation in the 'Common Area' of the school that would help children understand the importance of being 'green'.
4. Stephanie offered to address the School Board regarding the posting of a 'No Idling' sign at the school, down by the lower parking lot where parents pickup and drop-off their children, in an effort to reduce air pollution and energy consumption.
5. Les suggested that the committee submit a brief summary of our work for the Town Report. Stephanie offered to write a draft for the Board's perusal and input.
6. The Town website was discussed with the idea of placing links for the public to find good energy conservation sites.

Next Meeting: December 17, 2007

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm