

**PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY MARCH 23 AT  
9:30 IN THE MORNING IN THE SACO CITY HALL  
SACO ENERGY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2007

Committee Members Present: Mark Mitchell (Saco Code Enforcement Officer), Eric Cote (Saco City Councilor), Howard Carter (Waste Water Treatment Plant Director), John Sherman (Dep. Director Parks & Rec.), Travis Peaslee (Lab. Technician Treatment Plant), Ron Rochefort (Saco Police Dept.), Ed Dube (Deputy Fire Chief), Alden Murphy (Fire Chief), Maggie Daigle (Ferry Beach Ecology School)

**1. EARTH DAY 2007**

The Ferry Beach Ecology School will be hosting an expanded Earth Day event at the school between 11-3 on Sunday April 22. Maggie is lining up renewable energy vendors who will be demonstrating their products. Steve Hallee will be marketing his wind turbine, and Blue Link Solar will be demonstrating photovoltaic. Heather Chandler of Sunrise Guide will be present, etc. Saco's recycling educator Sarah Wojcoski will be part of the event. Maggie is looking for musical acts and food vendors. John will be providing Maggie some names of entertainers. Maggie will be visiting the Saco treatment plant this coming Thursday to see about possibly busing Earth Day goers to the treatment plant for a tour of the renewable energy projects.

**2. PURCHASE OF TOYOTA PRIUS HYBRID VEHICLE**

Discussion continued on the possible purchase of a hybrid for City Hall staff. Mark will get a local price for a Prius, and will quantify the present cost of transportation for City Hall staff. Presently some employees are reimbursed for mileage, and two old police cruisers are available for use. Of the two old police cruisers, one is normally inoperable. According to an article in the March/April issue of The Environmental Magazine, the Toyota Prius "is the benchmark by which all other hybrid vehicles are measured.... It is the runaway best-selling hybrid with sales of 97,000 in 2006." It costs \$21,725 and according to the magazine, the miles-per-gallon rating is "probably 45 in the real world."

### **3. BOILER UPGRADES**

Travis will be giving Mike Garrity a call to see what old boilers need to be replaced in schools. Alden said the boilers in Central and North Saco Fire Stations are good.

### **4. TREATMENT PLANT**

Howard expects the ten ton heatpump to be operational in May. The price will be \$62,000 which includes heating and cooling the plant, and replacing the air at the rate of 600 CFM per minute. This is a 5-6 year payback on investment, not counting an improved air quality.

The solar heating system is working well and maintaining the headworks building at a temperature in the 50's. During the cold snap, supplemental heat was required.

The wind turbine is doing well. The equipment to measure the output should be in place very soon. The turbine shuts off at 11 degrees. Howard is working on solving this problem.

### **5. LIGHTING PROJECT**

Alden said Sebago Energy did a great job replacing the lighting in the fire station. The lighting is better than it has ever been. Ron will be calling Sebago Energy as it appears the Police Station is the one remaining building to be done.

### **6. PROJECTS FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR**

Ron will soon have a price to fix the heating/cooling problem in the dispatch area of the Police Station. The solution will save energy.

Alden discussed a number of energy saving projects that can be done in the fire stations. It cost more to heat the Bayview station than it should. The first floor office at Central is a energy hog. It hasn't been upgraded since it was built in 1936. The windows at Central are poor. A single pane skylight is very inefficient. The overhead doors could be improved upon. Alden will be getting some prices for these improvements, and put together a power point presentation with Lisa's help.

## **7. FUEL PURCHASES AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

It appears to be a common problem that the frequent change of fuel providers causes some fuel tanks not to be filled when required, causing an expense that exceeds the fuel savings. The change in fuel providers also causes a problem with service. The City has learned that a company that does not provide the fuel, is not anxious to provide maintenance service. The Committee wishes to discuss these problems with Mike Garrity and see if he is having the same problems, and explore possible solutions. One possible partial solution would be to have a staff maintenance position, and possibly share the position with another community.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Friday March 23 at 9:30 in the morning in the Saco City Hall. The proposed agenda at this time is:

1. Howard and Travis' reports on heat pump project, wind turbine project, solar hot water heating project, micro hydro project, and solar air heater
2. John's report on community center improvements
3. Earth Day 2007
4. Discussion on old boilers in school and city buildings
5. Discussion of further projects for the present fiscal year and the next fiscal year
6. Purchase of Toyota Prius hybrid vehicle
7. Purchase of fuel and maintenance services for school and city buildings
8. Other business