

**PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY JULY 12 AT
9:30 IN THE MORNING IN THE SACO CITY HALL
SACO ENERGY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF MAY 17, 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.), Maggie Daigle (Ferry Beach Ecology School)

Guest: Claudia King (environmental advocate from Falmouth)

1. EARTH DAY 2007

Maggie believes that the Earth Day program at the Ferry Beach Ecology School went very well. The family orientation worked. For the first time the program was held, it was well attended, and received excellent publicity. It was the top news story on the Channel 6 News at 6. The School wants to do an Earth Day celebration again next year. Maggie would like to have more vendors, and situate the vendors better. The food vendor dropped out at the last minute this year, and a food vendor for lunch is definitely needed. A lot of people attended the nature walks. The scavenger hunt did not work out as well as hoped. The skits by staff, and music were great. Maggie said the staff of the school had a blast putting on the program. About 25 people attended the treatment plant tour. Howard would like to move this tour to the morning, and Travis would like to add some coloring books. Maggie would like to have a shuttle bus transport from the Ecology School to the treatment plant.

At the event, Howard had a talk with Adam Lee, whose company had some hybrids on display. Adam would like to have a geothermal system in his new dealership in Topsham. Howard referred Adam to W.H. Demmons.

2. WIND TURBINE

The replacement turbine is due in. The present turbine has been doing about 400 KWh per month, but it has been difficult to track production. Hopefully, tracking will

improve with the new turbine. It was suggested a turbine be installed at the Middle School with a 50 foot sectional tower.

3. POLICE STATION

Ron said that Sebago Energy has finally finished installing the lighting improvements to the police station. The lighting sensors are working well with the exception of one third shift officer being startled when the lights popped on. Ron has identified a number of additional places in the police station that would benefit from sensors. Ron also stated the proposed improvement to the HVAC system in the dispatch area will save \$3300 per year, and cost \$5790 to install.

4. TREATMENT PLANT

The treatment plant will need a new building as the present building is sinking into the earth. Discussion took place on making the new building all green and using geothermal to heat and cool, and small hydro to produce the needed electricity.

5. LED LIGHTING PROJECT

Travis has purchased two LED bulbs for use in the treatment plant. Travis will be measuring the electrical use with watt meters. Travis believes there would be a large savings if street lights could be converted to LED's.

6. CITY HALL

Mark got what he believes is a good price of \$1600 to put additional insulation in the city hall ceiling. He will be taking the project to city council workshop, if funds are not currently available in the city hall budget to do the work.

7. COMMUNITY CENTER

John said the gym windows have been installed, and bids are out for the heating plant upgrade and interior wall work.

8. TRANSPORTATION CENTER

Eric said the draft plan for the new transportation center includes passive solar heating, active solar heating, and a small wind turbine.

9. DISCUSSION WITH CLAUDIA KING

Claudia is an environmental advocate who lives in Falmouth. She is trying to get the town going on saving energy and using renewable energy. She is trying to get Falmouth to join the Cool Cities program. Claudia attended a town council meeting concerning the Cool Cities program. The local weekly reported the council was cool about the proposal. Concern was expressed by councilors about measuring the 1990 carbon footprint. Saco Energy Committee members suggested just measuring energy use over the last couple of years, and not try the very difficult task of going back to 1990. Mark pointed out the Governor's Carbon Challenge just suggested the last couple of years. Eric gave Claudia, Lisa Parker's very well done spread sheets on Saco's recent energy use, which the Saco Energy Committee is using to do its work.

Howard suggested to Claudia that Falmouth should form an energy committee, and just start working. Claudia said that Falmouth has put \$40,000 in this year's budget for work in the field. The Energy Committee members suggested to Claudia that the best first project to do would be lighting upgrades to the municipal buildings. The \$40,000 with Efficiency Maine rebates, should pretty much cover the cost of the project. The first step would be for Falmouth to hire a vendor like Sebago Energy, to do a lighting audit. Sebago Energy does the audit free, if you use it to do the work. The committee told Claudia that Saco's lighting project went well. It has less than a 5 year payback, not counting lower future maintenance costs, and substantially improved lighting in some areas. John mentioned how much the lighting was improved in the gym of the Community Center.

Claudia was invited to attend any future meetings of the Saco Energy Committee, and will be put on the email distribution list for our minutes.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Friday July 12 at 9:30 in the morning in the Saco City Hall. The proposed agenda at this time is:

1. Howard and Travis' reports on treatment plant projects
2. John's report on community center improvements
3. Travis' report on LED lighting project
4. Ron's report on police station project
5. Mark's report on city hall project
6. Discussion of further projects for the present fiscal year
7. Other business