

**PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETINGS WILL BE MONDAY NOV. 19 AT 10
IN THE MORNING AND THURSDAY DEC. 14 AT 9:30 IN THE
MORNING BOTH AT THE SACO CITY HALL
SACO ENERGY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF NOV. 2, 2007

Committee Members Present: John Sherman (Dep. Director Saco Parks and Rec.), Eric Cote (Saco City Councilor), Howard Carter (Waste Water Treatment Plant Director), Travis Peaslee (Lab. Technician Treatment Plant), Ron Rochefort (Saco Police Dept.)

Guests: Claudia King and Barbara DiBiase (both from Falmouth Cool Cities Committee)

1. ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TEST DRIVE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE

On Nov. 19 at 10 in the morning at the Saco City Hall, Kal Rogers (tel 233-9970), marketing director from Maine Electric Vehicles in Falmouth, will have two electric vehicles to test drive. Kal will answer questions. As always, environmental activists from ALL communities are welcome. Kal will have a two seater Zenn, which costs about \$9,000, and a 4 seater Miles, which costs about \$16,000. Both cars are zero emissions, and have a top speed of 25. The cars go about 30 miles on a charge.

2. DISCUSSION WITH CLAUDIA KING AND BARBARA DIBIASE

Claudia and Barbara are trying to get the Falmouth Cool Cities Committee going. They wanted to know how Saco has gone about the task. Saco Energy Committee members were full of advice, summarized as follows: (See also attached response.)

A. Try to get some tree hugging people from key municipal departments on the committee. The treatment plant is the biggest energy user in all communities with the exception of street lights, so try to get the treatment plant on board.

B. Try to get a tree hugging town councilor on the committee to help coordinate the committee and the town council's work.

C. Don't have an appointed committee. You can't predict who will show, and do the work. Have a committee open to who shows up and works.

D. Work on energy efficiency projects first, such as lighting and refrigeration. These are easy projects with quick paybacks. Do some easy projects to build up

confidence. Sell these projects to the council on the excellent paybacks, with additional service upgrades.

E. Do not waste money on stupid studies. You do not need a study to replace refrigerators. A new energy star rated refrigerator users about 1,000 less kWh per year than a 10 year old refrigerator. A lighting audit should come free with the lighting contractor.

F. Be wary of hucksters trying to provide expensive studies and lectures. You do not need the work. The information is readily available from other communities, vendors, government sources.

G. Meet with officials from the very good Efficiency Maine program.

H. In the proposed new Falmouth elementary school project, use a geothermal system. Geothermal is presently the most cost effective heating/cooling system. Beside no oil and oil tanks, the system has individual room heating and cooling. Go see the Gorham Middle School, which has such a system. They love it. See also existing geothermal systems at USM, Audubon Society's Visitors Center in Falmouth, Colby, MCI, U. Maine Farmington swimming center, Saco and Biddeford Savings Bank branch in Biddeford. The proposed Saco Transportation Center will have a geothermal system.

I. Photovoltaic is presently too expensive.

J. Replace old furnaces, add insulation where needed, install energy efficient windows and doors.

K. Prepare minutes and share by email with energy committees in other communities.

L. After doing all the energy efficiency projects and geothermal projects, start working with wind turbines. Follow Saco's EW15 50 kW progress. Do not waste time and money on expensive wind studies. A wind turbine will work in any windy spot.

M. Be patient and persistent. There is tremendous public and media support for what you are trying to do. You can do it!!!!

3. SMART STRIP POWER STRIP PROJECT

The committee looked at a smart strip power strip that Travis brought to the meeting. Each strip costs about \$30. Ron and John will be trying the power strip and reporting the results at the next meeting. It appears that this project may have a very quick payback. Travis said the treatment plant copier draws 6 watts when it is off. The Smart Strip promises to end this waste of energy.

4. SOLATUBE

Travis calculated a payback for installing two 21 inch solatube in the lab of the treatment plant. Travis calculated the lab uses \$417 worth of electricity per year for an eight hour shift (twenty four 34 watt CFL's on for 8 hours per day). Installing two 21 inch solatube for a price of \$2100 will pay back in less than 5 years. Further, substantial health benefits are reported with using sunlight for interior lighting instead of artificial lighting.

5. LED LIGHTING

While LED traffic lights work great, Travis and Howard determined in a trial of LED interior lighting, that it does not work. The LED bulbs do not give off enough light. Travis has read a number of reviews with the same conclusion concerning LED exterior lighting. Therefore, the committee will not work any longer on LED lighting, until the technology evolves.

6. COMMUNITY CENTER

John said the heating system upgrades will be complete next week. The old garage doors in the bays were removed this month and replaced with new walls. The new walls and ceilings, were insulated. The new bays will house a reception lobby, a senior wing, and showers for seniors.

7. VENDOR MISERS

A discussion took place about vendor misers. John said the vendor miser in the Community Center has worked well. The drinks are always cold, but the interior lighting in the machine only goes on when needed.

8. POLICE STATION ENERGY SAVINGS UPGRADES

The HVAC upgrade in the dispatch area has been completed at a cost of \$4,000. Ron figures a payback of 1 year to 1 1/2 years on the upgrade. For the first time, the air in the dispatch area is what it should be. Previously the area was too hot, and did not have enough fresh air.

Ron said the lighting sensors have worked out extremely well. They were placed in 10-12 locations. Previously the lights in some locations like the lunch room and the bays, were on 24/7. Ron, at first, was leery of the sensors, and so he did only 1/2 of the available locations. He polled the police station users, and has received no negative comments about the sensors. Therefore, Ron will be proceeding with placing light sensors in 10-12 more locations.

9. NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will be Monday Nov. 19 at 10 in the morning in the Saco City Hall. Maine Electric Vehicles will have two electric vehicles to test drive, and marketing director Kal Rogers will answer questions.

After Nov. 19, the next meeting will be Thursday Dec. 14 at 9:30 in the morning in the Saco City Hall. The proposed agenda at this time is:

1. Travis' report on solatube project
2. Ron, John, and Travis' report on smart strip power strip project
3. John's report on Community Center improvements
4. Howard's report on EW15 wind turbine project
5. Discussion of further projects



Eric Cote <eric.b.cote@gmail.com>

Give our Thanks to the Saco Energy Committee

1 message

Barbara DiBiase <barbdib@maine.rr.com>

Sun, Nov 4, 2007 at 7:50 PM

To: Eric Cote <eric.b.cote@gmail.com>

Cc: Claudia King <seekingc@maine.rr.com>

Hi Eric -

Thank you very much for letting Claudia and I join your meeting. I took a lot of notes and hope we didn't take up too much of the agenda.

I really liked the group's "just do it" attitude and plan to take that back to our manager, in the form of recommendations on easy changes we can make before the end of the month (vendor-misers and power strips). We are also meeting with Cathy Breen, chair of our town council, and hope to enlist their help on a more active level.

After the meeting we went to the waste water plant and got a tour from Dana and Warren. It is a pretty spot for waste work and I was excited to see and hear about the plans for the future.

Thank you again for sharing with us. We'll keep you posted on our progress and pass along any key ideas we learn.

Regards - Barbara DiBiase

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