Meeting Minutes
Saco Energy & Sustainability Committee
December 20, 2016

Present: Howard Carter, Cheryl Fournier, Andrew Goldberg, Pat Fox, Bruce Cote, Charlie Cotsis, Eric Cote, Jackie McDonough, James Ferguson, Joe Hirsch, Bill Mann

Wind Turbine Decision Update
• Nathan Johnston sent to Howard Carter an email that he is gathering more data and should have a final answer regarding the fate of the windmill by the next committee meeting in January
• If the windmill cannot be fixed it will most likely be turned into surplus property, could take bids and sell as scrap, should consider having a minimum price and consider takedown costs
• Many of the committee members like the idea of a gazebo built on the cement pad if the windmill is taken down
• Pat Fox mentioned the idea of a solar canopy
• Andrew Goldberg said there are solar units that track the sun and follow it from east to west which would maximize production
• Pat Fox said he thinks we have a spare conduit in the area near the windmill
• Bill Mann mentioned the idea of reutilizing the shaft by attaching a sculpture that spins and creates wind power, then retracted the statement
• If the windmill cannot be fixed, Howard Carter is hoping to start planning for the windmill site in early 2017

Police Department Heating System Update
• Update given by Bruce Cote
• No new information from CDM Smith
• The police department doesn’t plan on upgrading the heating system until the spring, they would like the facility survey report from CDM Smith by January 2017

Building LED Conversion Update
• Update given by Pat Fox
• Currently working on installing LED lights indoors, still have lights that need to be installed at parks and recreation, city hall and schools, should be completed within the next year, all LED lights are installed by Ed Profenno, the city’s in-house electrician

Sustainability Plan
• Update given by Bill Mann
• Sustainability plan is being worked on as part of the comprehensive plan, still fairly early in the process
Municipally Owned Street Lights

- Update given by Pat Fox
- Pat Fox sent an email to the energy committee which included a presentation titled “Planning For Street Lights” that was prepared by the three communities (Falmouth, South Portland and Rockland) that are ¼ of the way through the conversion process
- Depending on the number of lights, some vendors will do a high level assessment for free
- The cost of a high level assessment is between $20,000-$30,000
- Will consider using some energy funds and bond money for street light conversion
- The city of Saco has 1,600 street lights with a $260,000 annual cost
- Street light conversion has a payback of around 7 years
- City can finance upfront costs through providers, long term lease purchase
- Provider can absorb upfront capital but city would have to enter into a twenty year agreement
- It might be more cost effective for the city to obtain the funds for the street light conversion via bond versus entering into a long term contract
- Contracted maintenance service plans range from eighty cents a pole per month to two dollars a pole per month
- Bill Mann thinks we should look at funding, could possibly use some TIF money for street light conversion
- Howard Carter would like to see an action plan with goals and scenarios; Pat Fox to put together action plan by January or February meeting
- Should wait and see how other towns go through the street light conversion process from start to finish before Saco starts process
- Andrew Goldberg believes that the best time to do the street light conversion process is in the spring because we use more electricity in the winter than the summer
- John Kerry would like Pat Fox to consider solar street lights

Street Lighting Ordinance Change

- The Street lighting ordinance will be updated by Joe Laverriere the city engineer and Bob Hamblen the city planner

School Heating System Updates

- Did not address at this meeting

New Business

Capital Planning Committee

- The first Saco capital planning committee meeting will be held on January 4th; by collectively agreeing on a long term funding goal, staff can better plan capital projects before the budget process
- The capital planning committee will be working on providing data for 50-year and 100-year life cycle costs for the city’s assets

Parks & Recreation Gym

- The gym is around 9,000 square feet with 21 foot high ceilings, needs to be looked at for a heating/cooling system, could have Jim Godbout look at area and give quote
- Pat Fox would like to have a company come in and do a facility condition assessment
Action Items

- Pat Fox to put together street light conversion action plan by January or February meeting
- Joe Hirsch to get quotes on heating/cooling system for gym

Next Meeting January 31, 2017