

Alternative Energy Committee Minutes April 20th, 2011

Minutes for the April 20th, 2011 meeting of the Alternative Energy Committee

Attendees:

Richard Binns
Richard Bosse
John Donahue
Joe Sangiovanni
Terry Stearns

1. Public input

The committee received no public input.

2. Approval of March meeting minutes

The minutes for the March 10th meeting were approved.

3. Review of committee mission statement

The committee unanimously agreed to adopt the mission statement suggested by John. It incorporates new wording around the committee's mission to educate the community on alternative energy sources. The new mission statement reads:

The mission of the Suffield Alternative Energy Committee is to explore, evaluate and recommend energy technologies and policies that will reduce municipal, business and residential energy utilization, limit adverse impact on the environment, and preserve energy resources for future generations. Our strategy is to educate town leaders, staff and citizens, and propose specific solutions and champion game-changing actions that fulfill the mission."

4. Discussion of town bonding items requiring a lifecycle analysis

Committee members discussed recommending that the town incorporate lifecycle analyses into vendor contracts and proposals.

Concerns were expressed regarding the feasibility of this in that historically the town's focus has been on initial outlay versus lowest lifecycle cost. In addition, there was some skepticism regarding the ability of vendors to develop accurate and responsible analyses.

All agreed that the town could do better.

Before taking action, the committee agreed to await feedback from Paul Savino regarding information seeking he has done on this topic. It will then consider making a proposal to the Board of Selectmen. The following tentatively worded proposal was suggested:

“The Suffield Alternative Energy Committee recommends to the Board of Selectmen that lifecycle analysis be incorporated in all building initiatives undertaken in town.”

Committee members also agreed that this recommendation would be accompanied by an offer of support to provide direction and expertise in executing on the recommendation.

5. Review of Action Items

John will follow up with Kris Koren to see if a link can be added to the town website that would establish the committee as a resource for collecting and providing alternative energy information.

Richard agreed to send information to the committee on potential savings that could be realized through Direct Energy. This will be subject to discussion during the May meeting

6. Plan agenda for next meeting

An agenda was established for the committee's May meeting.