

Alternative Energy Committee Minutes
July 14, 2011

REVISED and Amended-8-09-2011

Note: A motion was made by John Donahue to revise and amend paragraph #3, as highlighted in yellow. The motion was seconded by Joe Sangiovanni and passed unanimously by the voting members present at the August 8, 2011 meeting.

Minutes for the July 14, 2011, 7:00pm meeting of the Alternative Energy Committee

Attendees:

Richard Binns (non-voting member)
Richard Bosse (interested town resident)
John Donahue
Joe Sangiovanni
Paul Savino

1. Public input

The committee received no public input.

2. Approval of March meeting minutes

The minutes for the June 09, 2011 meeting were approved.

3. Consider recommendation to town to use Direct Energy as the electrical generation source for the residents of the Town of Suffield.

After discussion, a motion was made by Paul Savino and seconded by Joe Sangiovanni, and passed unanimously to recommend, to the Board of Selectmen, that the Town of Suffield investigate the opportunity of utilizing Direct Energy, as its electrical generation source, for its' residents based upon the following understandings.

Direct Energy would:

- a) Offer town residents, as a buying group, better electrical generation rates than they could obtain individually
- b) Offer the lowest "green rate" to town residents
- c) Offer rebates to the Town of Suffield
- d) Perform all informational marketing, to town residents, at no cost to the Town of Suffield
- e) Not require any town resident to sign up for the program (using Direct Energy as the electrical generation source)
- f) Allow any town resident, who did sign up for the program, to "opt out" of the program at any time with no penalty

In addition, it is our understanding that no other company is making these offerings, within the State of Connecticut, to municipalities. Note: This opportunity would not be available for the School Department, only for Town of Suffield residents.

4. Request from Tom Frenaye for the committee to champion increased recycling

After discussion the committee came to consensus that this would be an activity the committee would help support and champion. Specific areas to be investigated further were:

- a) Obtaining the dollar savings, for the Town of Suffield, when residents utilize the “blue recycling bins”
- b) Approaching the Town of Suffield Schools in becoming a partner to actively promote recycling efforts
- c) Finding more information about recycling electronic equipment

5. Update on town website discussion

John Donahue informed the committee about the following:

- a) That the Alternative Energy Committee (AEC) now has a presence (page) on the Town of Suffield website
- b) That the committee’s mission statement and minutes are being posted
- c) He (John Donahue) has researched what another town’s (West Hartford) website has available as “hyperlinks” for energy related information.
- d) He (John Donahue) will be researching and proposing “generic” links (energy related information) that can be place on the AEC’s page of the Town of Suffield website after he has tested the links for ease of use and accuracy

6. Review of action items

- a) Richard Bosse has volunteered, as an interested town resident, to get updated information to Bill Hawkins that he found concerning Northeast Utilities limit on windmill output kW. Richard will e-mail Bill the information along with source references.
- b) Richard Binns will obtain updated information, from Direct Energy, and attend, with John Donahue, the next Selectmen’s Meeting (Wednesday-July 20) to present the recommendations of the Alternative Energy Committee.
- c) John Donahue will obtain, from Tom Frenaye, dollar savings information, for the Town of Suffield, when residents utilize the “blue recycling bins”.
- d) John Donahue will approach the Town of Suffield Schools to become a partner, with the AEC, in promoting recycling efforts within the town.
- e) Joe Sangiovanni will research and obtain information about recycling electronic equipment.
- f) John Donahue will research, test (ease of use and accuracy of energy related information) and propose “generic” links that can be placed on the AEC’s page on the Town of Suffield website.

7. Plan agenda for next meeting

Proposed agenda for August 11, 2011 meeting:

1. Public input
2. Approval of July 14 meeting minutes
3. Report on Selectmen's Meeting concerning Direct Energy
4. Update on recycling dollars saved, partnering with Town of Suffield Schools regarding recycling efforts and information about electronic equipment recycling
5. Update on generic links for AEC page on the town's website
6. Review of action items
7. Plan agenda for next meeting
8. Adjourn

8. Adjourn (8:00pm)