

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, May 1, 2018
6:30-8:00 PM, Rye Public Library

Present: Danna Truslow, Howard Kalet, Tom Pfau, Michael Joyce, Matt Maura, Carl Nicolino - guest

March and April 2018 meeting minutes were approved

Two items were added to agenda: NHSEA membership and Town newsletter article

Howard reported on the April 12 meeting he and Matt had with Police Chief Kevin Walsh at the Public Safety Building (PSB). Their notes about the meeting are below.

An overview was made of the Public Safety Building, Elements from two prior Audits were included in the discussion as well as updates as appropriate

Key items for discussion and review.

Note Chief Walsh has taken ownership of many facets of the Public Safety Building, clearly beyond the scope of his position as Chief of Police.

Lighting: Eversource made a lighting audit perhaps 2-3 years ago. It may be time for another Eversource lighting audit. Not sure if 4 ft long LED replacement bulbs would provide a cost savings solution at this time. They require 20 watts vs 32 watts. Light color and output are different. Other opportunities? Sourcing? Plus others? **Currently** sourcing from Rockingham Electric Supplier (Are there other bulk-buy opportunities?)

Rye Police Department: Motion detectors installed in all Police Department check-in areas with the exception of 24-hour lighting areas. Hallway "can style" fixtures that are on continuously now utilize LED bulbs that consume 10.5 watts and those that are switched on and off are the original CFL13 watt plug-in style bulbs. The LED bulbs are Phillips 458422. These are 4 pin bayonet style bulbs.

Flag and Front Entrance Outdoor Bulbs: ED17 and similar Edison style bulbs because of neighboring residents complaining of "too bright of light". Shield focusing light on the parking lot also added. These are not energy efficient bulbs and there may be LED replacements now available. Color and light output are significant for exterior lighting. Later confirmed to be 100-watt bulbs. No LED replacement bulbs available for exterior enclosed applications?

In the "Sally Bay" there are 4 ft long Fluorescent bulbs with recently updated after the Eversource audit to T8 bulbs. Most fixtures are used as needed.

Rye Fire Department: Fire Department does not have timers or motion detectors downstairs, manual switch. Upstairs has motion detectors for lights. In the equipment bay there are 32 Watt T8 bulbs, which replaced the original 40 watt T12 bulbs . Most of these fixtures are only on as needed.

Heating System: Oil Fired Buderus equipment. This is serviced semiannually with boiler tune up in the spring and pumps reviewed/replaced/repared in the fall.

Follow-up items: Do the boilers utilize outside air temperature reset technology? Water temp changes from 180 to 160F switch required. Later confirmed that the boilers do have this option. Does the boiler have outside combustion air? If the opportunity arises to enclose the oil storage tank, consider the investment. It would allow use of lower cost non-blended heating oil year-round, and the electric heating tapes could be operated for a shorter period of time.

Dowling Service Contract in place for pump failures. May not be the most affordable option but the Chief Walsh expressed they teach him the basic servicing to make it effective spend, emphasizing Dowling “knows this unique system”.

Action: Matt Marra to connect Chief Walsh with Tank Clarity for oil level monitoring for fuel fulfillment management.

Insulation: This work has been identified in the 2011 and 2015 audits. There are a few areas requiring updating. The work is planned to be done by town employees. Not clear if the project size is too small for local contractors. May be worth putting out an RFQ. Follow-up meeting with Dennis McCarthy and Mike Magnant?

House Air Compressor: Needs review. Compressor may be running too often suggesting need to be rebuilt and/or there may be system leaks.

Set Back Thermostats: This upgrade was identified in earlier audits. Clearly not as applicable as in the 24-hour operation as it would be in normal businesses or homes. Simply not viewed as a cost savings opportunity

The Senior Serve bus is currently stored at the old police station (Trolley barn). If the town sells the building the bus may be stored at the PSB. If that were to happen then there may be an opportunity to enclose the fuel storage tank in the new covered area.

Currently the fuel tank must be physically monitored by staff. Matt offered to put Chief Walsh in touch with Tank Clarity which would allow them to remotely monitor the fuel level.

Howard agreed to forward these notes to Chief Walsh.

Danna reported on the meeting she and Tom had with Dan Weeks of ReVision Energy, RJS students, Principal Marie Soucy and Custodial Staff Supervisor Jim Gordon. Her notes from the meetings are below.

On April 12, 2018 Tom Pfau and I met with Dan Weeks of Revision Energy prior to meeting with folks at Rye Junior High (RJH). We went over the various buildings in town again especially the RJH where a group of students has asked for more information on putting up solar panels. Revision has agreed to donate a “pilot” solar system to help support this group.

Dan reviewed a build out of solar panels on the RJH flat roof and main building that would generate a great deal of energy but will likely meet opposition from the Rye Historic District. We talked about the Breakfast Hill Landfill (BHLF) again too. We reviewed the fact that the landfill had been evaluated briefly but based on the additional engineering and mountings required for ground placement it was thought to be too costly. Dan did not feel that the issue of ground mounting would be a problem. Tom and I agreed that looking at that location might be worthwhile.

I first contacted Mike Magnant about the ownership of the BHLF and any arrangement they had with the owner. His response was:

I have not dealt with the owners since I've been here. The town holds a groundwater-monitoring permit with DES. That is the relationship. We really don't deal with the owner. We do the monitoring and send the reports to DES.

I think it would be the same as dealing with a private landowner and negotiating to put solar panels on their property.

Mike later also emailed the following after having a brief conversation with Craig Musselman about the property:

Approval of both the Ciborowski's and the Town would be required. DES review of design and careful monitoring of construction would be required. We (CMA Engineers) have done this over several municipal landfill caps. The agreement with the solar developer is a critical issue. We represented Hampton on negotiating an agreement for solar panels at their landfill, and Hampton backed away after acceptable language likely wasn't going to be found to limit the Town's responsibilities. This is doable, but it takes some effort, and full agreement of the developer, the Town, DES and the Ciborowski's. Other than those issues, it is a good site, in my view.

I then contacted the representative of the Ciborowskis, the listed owner of the BHLF property. They too had thought of solar power at that location and would be willing to talk about selling the land to the town as well. They were not as interested in just being a solar power producer but didn't rule that out.

Tom also provided the following information – The landfill property tax card notes say: COAKLEY LANDFILL SUPER FUND SITE UNDEVELOPABLE, the assessed value is

\$33,200. And the lot next to the BHLF, that has an electric meter on it, is owned by the Rye Water District.

I know that Tom and Howard have done some assessment work already, but these are the questions I would have, as we look at this further:

- How much power could be produced here, what % of the towns needs would be satisfied?

What is the cost to assess the landfill cap suitability?

- Since the town does not own the land, would land purchase make the project too expensive?
- Would it make sense to have a joint REC/RHD meeting to talk about solar on public buildings before we go too much further on this effort?

Tom agreed to follow-up with ReVision to inquire about the viability of a municipal solar array on the BHLF and with Eversource about a lighting audit at the schools, PSB and Library.

Michael asked whether there is a group purchase of light bulbs.

Tom agreed to send Howard a spreadsheet of municipal fuel use.

Tom agreed to summarize the Energy Survey results for the next meeting.

REC Web Page

Michael reported on his review of the REC web page. He offered a list of things we should consider doing which include:

- Identify Audience
- Update Image Carousel
- Add 'Purpose' to end of each bullet point within 'Summarized Mission Statement'
- Recommend making the mission statement and any impacts/ progress REC has made be front and center on the page. Grab the reader within 3 sees.
- Template Required? Can we create our own site and link to it?
- Far too many links - readers need to keep drilling down for information which might only be a sentence.
- 'Home Energy' section has many non-working links.
- 'Alternative Electricity Suppliers' spreadsheet is outdated (2013). Should we update, or we could display information in a different way.
- Many of the 'Municipal Energy' links are broken and those that are still live need updating.

- REC should have its committee name on the Master List. REC can still link to them and vice versa.
- Social? Should we create a Facebook page? How are readers likely to engage with REC? Perhaps we can extrapolate some of the survey data to make some decisions.

Michael agreed to meet with Janice to discuss updating the page.

VW Diesel Law Suite Settlement

Matt reported on his email communications with the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives and the City of Portsmouth re allocation of VW settlement funds and EV charging stations. He learned the NH OSI and NH DES will be conducting a public comment session on NH's Volkswagen Settlement on May 9 in the Portsmouth. He plans to attend and will report back his findings. He also learned that Portsmouth has two EV charging station locations: one at the Hanover parking garage and the other at the City Hall parking lot. They plan to add additional EV charging locations at the Foundry Place Parking Garage which is currently under construction. Both of the existing stations are currently free for the consumer. The chargers cost \$8-\$10,000 each.

We agreed to join NHSEA - \$100.00 to be paid from the REC account.

Danna said she would draft an article for the next Town newsletter that she would email to members for review before submitting it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 5, 6:00 PM at the Rye Library.