

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Energy Education Team
Minutes of the Meeting
December 15, 2009

Present: Spurlock, Nash, Britton (chair), Loxsom, Williams, Walton (staff)

The meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes from November 17, 2009 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Britton reported that Mansfield's Director of Maintenance, Bill Hammon, briefed the Sustainability Committee on the green initiatives that the Mansfield maintenance department has taken over the past five years. The committee suggested that for a future project, the Energy Education Team work on the Safe Walk to School Program, which provides financial assistance to build sidewalks.

The energy coaches reported on their progress with the energy challenge in-house visits. By using the infrared imaging camera Loxsom identified a lot of infiltration problems at Glenridge. Loxsom stated that the camera has been most useful in locating missing insulation. Walton will work with Loxsom to arrange infrared readings for the other participating households that have requested it. Walton noted that some of the materials in the starter kit had been returned to her because the materials are not needed. Kill-A-Watt meters are available to loan to the households. Walton asked for likely candidates to be filmed for Channel 14 so that she can start making arrangements with Miriam Kurland. Britton stated that he and Hoyle had not started their visits. Loxsom and Nash completed their visits. Spurlock and Walton made two visits. Britton stated that motivating participants to make changes will be the key to the success of this challenge. Written recommendations and follow-up calls with the households were a few strategies discussed.

Walton reported that the fluorescent lighting sales vendor, TechniArt, does sell EnergyStar rated bulbs. Walton stated that she is getting spent bulbs back (for recycling) from the sales they hosted a few years ago and is not convinced that top quality bulbs were sold. The Team suggested that since compact fluorescent bulb prices are dropping, staff should look into other bulb ratings besides Consumer Report and, rather than offer another sale, advise residents on the best bulbs to purchase.

Walton reported on the Town's 20% by 2010 status. The Town needs twelve more CleanEnergyOptions sign-ups before earning another 1 kilowatt solar panel. Williams suggested that a thermometer be placed on the website and that this is better publicized. Members will promote CleanEnergyOptions with the households they are coaching.

Walton was approached by a geothermal installer who offered to make a presentation in Mansfield on residential geothermal systems. Loxsom stated that Eastern Connecticut State University was also planning a residential geothermal presentation some time in February or March. It was decided to help publicize the ECSU presentation. Williams suggested that the presentation be placed in the trash bill notice.

Walton reported that at the end of November, the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund approached the Town about taking part in a Department of Energy grant (stimulus money). The Town agreed to participate in "The Clean Energy Communities Program-Community Energy Savings Project" which, if funded, would assist fourteen Connecticut municipalities with a team of public, private, academic and non-profit organizations. The project would help households set specific, measurable goals for energy efficiency, conservation and clean energy usage, and provide support in meeting these goals. The grant deadline was December 14, 2009 with awards made in March 2010.

Williams asked that the team put together a list of certified energy contractors. Britton stated that installers or contractors must qualify in order to participate in the various clean energy fund incentive programs.

Walton reported that a regional energy task force meeting will be held in Ashford on December 16. Walton will be interviewed about Mansfield's energy challenge for Channel 14 on December 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk