

Energy Education Team
Minutes of the Meeting
February 7, 2012

Present: Coleen Spurlock (chair), Doug Goodstein, Pene Williams, Sally Milius, Madeline Priest (Neighbor to Neighbor), Kevin Donahue (Neighbor to Neighbor), Ginny Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by chair Coleen Spurlock.

The January 3, 2012 meeting minutes were accepted.

Coleen reported on the success of the Transition Town training on January 7 and 8, 2012, with 36 people in attendance. As a result of the training two geographic groups have been formed, one for the Storrs area and the other for Willimantic.

Ginny reported that the planning of the Climate Forum on March 27, 2012 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm is well underway. Sally volunteered to put together a poster display of alternative energy activities in town.

A regional energy task force meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2012. Pene will provide cider and Doug plans on attending. Ginny will be responsible for refreshments, set-up and clean up.

Doug has been searching for examples of municipal-sponsored energy efficiency loans but has not found any. Madeline reported that CL&P is piloting a 0% energy efficiency loan that can be paid back through the customer's electric bill.

Madeline reported that so far 0.8% of Mansfield households have either had an energy audit or a lighting retrofit (the grant goal is 10%). Of the 14 towns, Mansfield has the third highest participation in lighting retrofits. Initiated by the enrichment teachers, all four schools are designating April as "energy awareness month." During April the schools will focus on collecting pledges from students. Kevin and Madeline will be teaching second graders about energy efficiency. On Feb 8, 2012, Madeline and Sally will talk about the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge at the Middle School PTA meeting. Kevin has contacted Sam Shifrin about videotaping the Kirby Mill. Ginny offered to show Kevin the Gurleyville Grist Mill, to give a historical perspective of the importance of water power in developing the region. Madeline reported that there is a list of people who have not signed an authorization for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge to obtain their household energy information. By signing authorization, the Town will earn more points. She will send out the list so that members can contact these individuals directly. Madeline will be presenting Neighbor to Neighbor at the First Baptist Church on February 14, 2012 at 11 am.

Members discussed changing the name of the Energy Education Team. No decision was made.

The sustainability committee has asked the Energy Education Team to explore ways to raise consciousness about energy conservation among town employees and committees. Coleen said she would send out a Yale University webcast notice about new energy business solutions, which may provide some guidance. Doug and Sally will work on an outline of ideas for a future meeting.

Ginny stated that Home Energy Basics I was cancelled due to lack of interest. Home Energy Basics II is scheduled for March 21 and interest needs to be drummed up. Madeline is going to change the format of the presentation to include a panel of residents who have already had energy audits. Madeline will prepare a flyer to circulate.

Pene suggested offering a presentation on ways to cope in the event of a power outage.

Agenda items for next month include neighborhood canvassing and Earth Day plans.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2012. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton