

Haverhill Mayor's Energy Task Force

14 May 2007 Meeting Minutes

Haverhill City Hall room 301

Monday 14 May 2007 7:00 pm

Task force members in attendance with asterisk:

- Ted Becker, Haverhill citizen
- Jeff Dill, Haverhill Building Department
- Concetta Fisichelli, Haverhill citizen
- Jared Fortna, Haverhill citizen *
- Mike LaBonte, Chairman *
- David Swartz, Haverhill City Council

Others in attendance:

- Jack Bevelacqua, Haverhill citizen, Massachusetts DOER

Mike LaBonte conducted the meeting

Mike LaBonte made materials available to attendees:

- Draft task force report document, revision 4

Mike LaBonte opened the meeting. He felt that conducting this meeting only one week after the 7 May 2007 meeting had left too little time for progress on report contributions. We agreed that 2 weeks would be a better interval.

We reviewed the draft task force report document:

- Page 1:
 - It was decided that a May release date for the report seemed unrealistic, since our next meeting would be at the end of the month. Since the officially agreed report date is 22 July 2007 we decided to change “May” to “July” on the cover page.
- Page 5:
 - This 14 May 2007 meeting will be added to the meeting list.

- Page 6:
 - There is no table showing numeric data for the pie chart in Figure 1. Table 1 has the data in greater detail, but does not contain subtotals expressing the pie chart data.
- Page 8:
 - There is no table showing numeric data for the bar graph in Figure 2. Table 2 has the data in greater detail, but does not contain subtotals expressing the bar graph data.
- Page 10:
 - The linear regression line is not linear because the X-axis date points are not correctly spaced. Implementing the figure in Microsoft Excel instead of OpenOffice may correct this.
 - The linear regression line should be extrapolated beyond the current date to predict future pricing.
 - This section should have information on existing electric power contracts, identifying the supplier and prices.
- Page 11:
 - Jack Bevelacqua said he could provide information to explain how Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative credits might be used as a revenue source.
 - We discussed the concept of Forward Capacity, in which electric power users are compensated on an ongoing basis for an agreement to reduce or cut electric use at times of peak demand. For power companies this can be cost effective because it averts the need to buy expensive “spot” power or build new generating facilities. Mike said he would find out if the Haverhill Water and/or Wastewater departments could accommodate. For example, they might use their existing backup generators to reduce grid demand, if the cost of doing this would be offset by forward capacity payments.
- Page 12:
 - Jack said that Boston should be on the list of cities with an Energy Manager. Brad Swing was Director of Energy Policy about 1 year ago.
 - Jack suggested that Haverhill might instead hire a local contractor instead of a permanent employee for the position. We discussed how long the energy manager might be needed, and it was felt that this would be at least two years.
 - Jack mentioned that companies such as BJ's and Costco utilize permanent energy managers very effectively, although their budgets are larger than Haverhill's. Mike said he would contact Costco for information that might help quantify the cost/benefit terms.
 - Jack also said that the Massachusetts Municipal Association might be of help in finding energy managers.

- Page 13:
 - Jared agreed to supply text for the research section on energy savings performance contractors.
 - We may be able to use descriptive language from the DOER, with source cited.
- Page 14:
 - Mike said that the Clean Energy Choice program should be included in the discussion of Massachusetts Technology Collaborative programs.
 - Ted Becker continues to be the best candidate for writing this.
- Page 15:
 - Jack said that in addition to the listed EPA programs, we may be able to make use of an NOx reduction program.
 - Mike agreed to provide research text for the Energy Star program.
- Page 17:
 - We decided to ask Kathy LaRoque and Chris Donovan to write the research for the Bio-diesel section.
- Page 18:
 - Mike will add a sentence suggesting that a contractor might be hired as an alternative to a permanent hire for the energy manager position.
 - Numbers in recommendations 2 and 3 have been updated to reflect 31 March 2007 data from the MTC.
 - Recommendation 5 no longer specifies wind.
- Page 19:
 - We will ask Kathy and Chris to write recommendation 6 on bio-diesel fuel use.
 - We decided to delete recommendation 7 because the EPA Community Energy Challenge appears to offer no monetary benefit. We will mention the program in the research section, however, as it offers some intangible benefits.
 - Mike had added a title for recommendation 8, concerning building standards. Mike will supply text for this.
 - We decided to add recommendation 9, “Consider evaluating alternative electric supply contracts to reduce expenses”

Jack said that Ford and MIT are co-developing a new diesel engine that uses ethanol injection to achieve greater power output, allowing smaller engines to be used. he said they may be looking for a fleet operator for testing.

Jared Fortna provided a list of companies offering power purchase agreement contracts, which supports recommendation 5. Mike said this would be added to the report as Appendix G. Jack said he may be able to find other companies to add to the list.

The meeting ended at 8:35 pm

Minutes by Mike LaBonte