

# Haverhill Mayor's Energy Task Force

## 18 July 2007 Meeting Minutes

Haverhill City Hall room 301

Monday 18 July 2007 7:00 pm

Task force members in attendance with asterisk:

- Ted Becker, Haverhill citizen \*
- Jeff Dill, Haverhill Building Department
- Chris Donovan, Haverhill citizen
- Jared Fortna, Haverhill citizen \*
- Mike LaBonte, Chairman \*
- Kathy LaRoque, Haverhill citizen
- David Swartz, Haverhill City Council \*

Others in attendance:

- Matt Dugan, Keyspan Energy
- Concetta Fisichelli, Haverhill citizen
- Shubhada Kambli, U.S. EPA, Boston
- Colin LePage, Haverhill citizen

Mike LaBonte conducted the meeting

Mike LaBonte made materials available to attendees:

- Meeting agenda
- Draft task force report document, revision 9

Mike LaBonte opened the meeting with an introduction of Shubhada Kambli from the EPA, who kindly agreed to explain the details of the EPA Community Energy Challenge Program for the task force.

Shubhada distributed copies of her presentation and other EPA literature, then walked us through the presentation. New England has among the nations highest energy costs. The average building wastes about 30% of it's energy, which is why it is commonly suggested that building improvements can yield a 25% to 30% savings.

Shubhada said that to manage energy use we must first measure it. In many institutions, each department is responsible for tracking it's own energy, and visibility of the big picture is limited. The EPA provides an online Energy Performance Rating system to help with integrated reporting. Each department can enter data, and aggregated reports can be generated. Energy intensity varies widely depending on

building use. Non-refrigerated warehouses have low energy intensity, for example, while hospitals are high. On a national level, each building is then compared with all buildings in the same category, and a percentile score is given. Buildings scoring over the 75th percentile are eligible for the EnergyStar label, and may receive national recognition. Shubhada said that the EPA benchmarking service is free, and the EPA will provide very good support.

Mike said that the task force had agreed in the last meeting to reinstate the "Take the EPA Community Energy Challenge" recommendation in our report, as it was present in the current version. Two appendices to the report are related to this recommendation. Mike agreed to fill in portions of the EPA Community Energy Challenge commitment letter to make it specific to Haverhill, where possible.

David Swartz asked for more information on National Grid's GreenUp program. Ted Becker and Colin LePage provided some details. This gave a good segue for Colin LePage to present his finding on the BigBelly trash receptacle.

Colin distributed brochure packets for the BigBelly system and proceeded to describe it. The BigBelly brings several benefits including reduction of truck energy and pollution due to less frequent emptying, and better containment of trash even in windy conditions. Kathy LaRoque said that she sees them in Boston, and people seem to like them. They also provide space for graphics promoting the city's efforts to be "green". Colin said that Andover has two BigBellies. They are lined with plastic trash bags. Newer models have a plastic body and a dome to protect the solar panel from damage. The solar panel charges a battery, which has a life of at least 5 years. Wireless notification of full status is a planned feature. They are made by Seahorse Power Company in Needham, MA. The sales representative there is Bill Eddy.

The cost of the BigBelly is about \$4,000 each. With MTC Clean Energy Choice credits Haverhill currently could buy two of them. Colin suggested Riverside Park as a candidate site for one BigBelly. Mike suggested Washington Square as a second site. There were concerns over people mistaking a BigBelly for a mailbox, but Kathy and Colin said they look different enough to minimize the possibility of that mistake. Vinny Oullette from the Recreation Department would be the person to undertake this, and he is already familiar with the MTC.

Ted made the general comment that many good community activities take place, but "the feedback loop is not closed". He expressed his desire that there be an ongoing effort to track energy use and progress in Haverhill, reporting back to the city on an annual basis.

Mike reported that he is scheduled to speak about the task force at the Haverhill City Council meeting 24 July 2007. Mike plans to give a brief overview of the task force, summarize our recommendations, and promote the "Clean Energy & You" event. It was suggested that making special mention of the BigBelly might be a good idea. Before this meeting Mike will deliver the task force report to the Mayor. Copies of the report will also be delivered to Jason Tait of the Eagle Tribune and Jean McDougal-Tattan of the Haverhill Gazette, to make it easy for them to write articles.

We discussed planning for the Clean Energy & You event at the library. Mike was concerned that the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional candidates' debate taking place in City Hall at 7:00 pm the same evening might reduce our turnout. He suggested starting at 5:30 pm so that people could more easily attend both events, which are physically quite close. David Swartz felt that few people might attempt to attend both. Ted said that from his experience a 6:00 pm start time will draw more people than a 5:30 pm start time. We decided to announce that presentations would begin at 6:00 pm, but the doors would open at 5:30 pm for refreshments.

It was suggested that we try to have Haverhill Community TV tape the event. Either Elaine Barker or Richard Smythe might be able to do this. Ted will contact them. There was some concern that the debate

across the street might require all available cameras. Mike asked Jared Fortna if he would be able to attend the event. Jared's new geothermal engineering job in New York begins before the event, so he will not be able to attend.

We turned to the task of reviewing the task force report. A few typographical errors and grammatical errors were found. Mike said he would use an automated grammar checker in case we missed something. We also checked for missing references. Mike reported that Katy Krottinger of Clean Water Action had been very helpful in reviewing draft 8 of the report ahead of the meeting. The first two paragraphs of the Renewable Electric Power section were written by Katy and sent by email. Jared said he would find out the correct technique for crediting Katy.

In the Recommendations section Mike noted that he had added to recommendation 2 so that it specifically suggested using MTC credits to buy a BigBelly trash compactor. Mike had also added recommendation 10, "Continue to upgrade pumps and controls. Mike explained that the Water and Wastewater departments periodically upgrade equipment to save energy. Although they already do this, the recommendation suggests institutionalizing the process and having period reports to the city. A question came up about recommendation 1, asking why it did not suggest specifically that the city hire an energy manager. Mike explained that it did exactly that at one time, but was altered to give the city more flexibility and hopefully become more acceptable. Jared suggest that the city might for example designate a team of 3 existing city officials to fill the role.

We agreed that the ten recommendations were all sound, and Mike, David, Jared, and Ted signed the report. Mike said he would visit Kathy LaRoque and Chris Donovan for their signatures. Jeff Dill had been away on vacation, and Mike said it might not be possible to get his signature before making report copies.

Reviewing the appendices Mike noticed that the EPA Community Energy Challenge commitment letter in Appendix G could have some information filled in, such as the name of our city. Also, Appendix D was missing Massachusetts General Law chapter 25A, section 11C. Mike said the list of contractors in Appendix E was limited to Haverhill contractors but not limited to energy contractors, because the full DCAM list is 191 pages. It was decided that if a reasonable list of energy contractors could not be found, this appendix would be removed. Mike had added a sheet for Appendix K, but there were no contents. This was to be a list contact information for people the task force had had contact with, potentially helpful for someone pursuing the recommendations. We decided to remove this appendix due to privacy concerns.

The meeting ended at 9:50 pm

Minutes by Mike LaBonte