

Haverhill Mayor's Energy Task Force

26 February 2007 Meeting Minutes

Mayor's Office, Haverhill City Hall (moved from Room 301)

Monday 26 February 2007 7:00 pm

Task force members in attendance:

- Mike LaBonte, Chairman

Others in attendance:

- Jack Bevelacqua, Massachusetts DOER
- Jared Fortna
- Ted Becker
- Robert Scatamacchia, Haverhill City Council

Mike LaBonte conducted the meeting

Mike handed out copies of three documents:

- Meeting agenda
- Spreadsheet showing energy items on the FY2007 city budget
- TrueWind map of Haverhill

Discussion began with the subject of performance-based contracting for buildings. Mike had contacted Eileen McHugh at DOER. Her job is to assist with performance contracting. Eileen had explained that the first thing we need is complete and detailed energy use information for each building. The cost per square foot must be calculated. Preferably this information would span multiple years of operation.

We discussed the EnergyStar and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification programs. Mike said the Mayor had expressed an interest in requiring compliance with energy efficiency standards for new development projects. The task force would make recommendations that would be forwarded to planning and zoning officials.

Jack Bevelacqua suggested that we might achieve significant gains by training Haverhill building inspectors to assure that their knowledge of energy efficient practices is current. Jack said he would send Mike contact information for Larry Masland of DOER, who can assist with training.

Based on the energy budget spreadsheet, Robert Scatamacchia suggested that Haverhill water and water treatment facilities might be prime candidates for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Jack agreed, and indicated that a study would be needed. David Dilts performs these studies and in fact had visited Pentucket Regional High School that very day, to inspect a broken PV system. Jack pointed out that the MTC Renewable Energy Trust Fund (RETF) currently would not fund a PV study. Robert Scatamacchia said that bids might not be required, if the cost of a study were small enough. Ted Becker

noted that the Nettle School, where he teaches, has a roof that should be very suitable for a PV installation.

We looked at the TrueWind map provided by Sally Wright of the Renewable Energy Research Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. This map indicated that Haverhill has no location with an average wind speed exceeding the 6.5 m/s required by MTC for funding consideration. Ted Becker had also studied wind maps covering a larger area than just Haverhill. We discussed ways to find out true average wind speed, which might allow us to get approval from MTC. Ted believed that the Golden Hill School has an anemometer, but he was unaware of where the data goes to. Mike suggested checking to see if Covanta has wind speed data that might indicate higher average speeds than the TrueWind map shows for their location. Mike said he would coordinate with Paul Bergman on this.

Revisiting the subject of collecting energy use data for buildings, Ted said that Anita Hagspiel of National Grid may be able to get this information for us.

The state DOER will hold a performance contracting workshop, and Jack said he would send information on this to Mike. Robert believed that an energy audit had been performed for Haverhill fairly recently, and that Jeff Dill should have this information. Mike said he would contact Jeff. To accelerate our progress Jack suggested that we should convene a daytime meeting in which Eileen McHugh would advise us on performance contracting. The Mayor, Jeff Dill, Mike LaBonte, Eileen McHugh, and Brian Dempsey were recommended participants for this meeting. Mike will ask the Mayor to host this meeting. It was mentioned that Belmont had engaged in a performance contracting project with the help of DOER.

Jared Fortna gave us his findings on power purchase agreements. These are contracts in which wind or PV development is funded by a company who recovers their costs by selling the power at a profit. The price we pay for the generated electric power is less than what we pay from utilities, but more than the operating cost of the system. Wind power, for example, can cost only \$0.04/kW-hr to produce. These are commonly 20 year contracts. Questions came up about the available options after the contract expires. Jack indicated that the new governor may make changes that will improve access to support for energy projects at some point. He suggested that Brian Dempsey may be helpful on this.

Jack also stated that CNG projects are waning in favor, and ethanol is gaining. One possibility is that the Mass Highway Department would grow switchgrass on state highway median strips.

Revisiting the subject of wind power, it was suggested that we complete the MTC Wind Power Site Survey application, despite indications that Haverhill may not qualify for funding. Ted Becker agreed to do this. A city employee must be named on the application for contact purposes. We will leave that portion blank and submit the incomplete application to the Mayor for his consideration.

Since current energy use information is required for just about any project we undertake, we decided to press for this. Robert Scatamacchia said he would contact Jeff Dill about this.

Jack Bevelacqua added water power to the discussion. There may be opportunities to install micro-turbines in certain locations. We discussed locations that might have a sufficient water head and also be near city-owned facilities. Jack mentioned that water rights might be an issue, as there is widespread private ownership of water rights in Haverhill.

Ted Becker asked about the discussion forum portion of the Haverhill Energy Task Force web site (<http://havenergy.civiczone.net>), which appears not to be sending email notifications as it should. Mike promised to look into that.

Robert Scatamacchia suggested that we ask State Rep. Brian Dempsey to designate an aide to participate in our task force as an adviser. We agreed, and Robert said he would contact Brian Dempsey about that. It was also mentioned that State Senator Steven Baddour has been named to a new sustainability committee in the Massachusetts Senate.

The suggestion was made that we might host an Energy Night for citizens. This would be an informational outreach gathering. Most likely MTC could provide a speaker for this. We discussed possible locations, including the Johnson Auditorium at the Haverhill Public Library, and the new NECC Allied Health and Technology Center.

March 19, 2007, a Monday, was set as the next meeting date. Mike will arrange for notifications and meeting facilities. The meeting would most likely be in room 301, at 7:00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9:05 pm

Minutes by Mike LaBonte