

# Haverhill Mayor's Energy Task Force

## 7 May 2007 Meeting Minutes

Haverhill City Hall room 301

Monday 7 May 2007 7:00 pm

Task force members in attendance with asterisk:

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

Others in attendance:

- Chris Donovan, Haverhill citizen

Mike LaBonte conducted the meeting

Mike LaBonte made materials available to attendees:

- Draft task force report document, revision 3
- Eagle Tribune Haverhill edition, 7 May 2007

Mike began by showing that day's Eagle Tribune newspaper, containing an article "*Study: More should buy 'clean' power*". This story describes the task force activities and includes a list of the preliminary task force recommendations. It was based on revision 1 of the report.

Mike gave a brief overview of the DOER Performance Contracting Seminar held 26 April 2007. Representatives from several energy service contractors (ESCOs) were there in addition to Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources (DOER) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials. Mike had written about this event in the blog on the task force web site.

Rep. Brian Dempsey's Chief of Staff, Colleen McGonagle, had reported to Mike that a new state program to encourage energy initiatives in cities has been announced but not yet formalized. At Mike's request, Rep. Dempsey asked the Governor about this program, which seeks to help Boston and *four other cities* replicate a successful program in Cambridge. Colleen said that Rep. Dempsey has noted our interest and will track the program.

## Review of draft Task Force report

- Page 2:
  - We agreed that the executive summary would be written last.
- Page 4:
  - Chris Donovan will be added to the advisers list.
  - Suggestions were made for the Goals section:
    - Haverhill should reduce its energy “footprint” and expenditures.
    - Haverhill should be at the forefront of newer energy technology.
    - Recommendations should involve negligible capital investment from the general fund.
  - Jared Fortna agreed to complete the Goals section.
- Page 10:
  - The graph showing National Grid electric power prices should have a linear regression line added to show the expected trend. Mike will do this.
- Page 12:
  - We discussed ways to find more information about city energy managers. It is known that Newton has hired one, and Worcester plans to. Mike has attempted to contact the Newton energy manager, but has not received a reply. It was suggested that Cambridge might offer a useful model, but it was believed that Cambridge has an entire Energy Commission.
- Page 18:
  - Recommendation 1: This should suggest hiring of an energy manager as soon as possible, so that the new manager can take part in the RFQ process, preferably beginning with the writing of the RFQ.
  - Recommendation 2: The current status of MTC Clean Energy Choice credits for Haverhill should be updated.
  - Recommendation 4: We should recommend having key city officials engaged in the energy savings performance contract process as early as possible. This recommendation was repeated at the DOER seminar last month. Department heads, the energy manager, and city solicitor should be involved.
  - Recommendation 5: Change the focus from wind power to the concept of a power purchase agreement. The type of renewable energy is not so important, but power purchase agreements can give us a stable electric price while encouraging renewable energy. Jared Fortna will provide a list of companies offering power purchase agreements, to be added as an appendix.
- Page 19:
  - Recommendation 6: We decided to find out what Haverhill has for existing diesel fuel contracts, and if there might be a program to recover the incremental cost to switch to bio-diesel. We also agreed it would be helpful to find out if other nearby cities have converted to bio-diesel for city vehicles. Chris Donovan said that Cummins has endorse bio-diesel fuels up to B20 grade for engine warranty purposes.

- New recommendations: Chris Donovan suggested that a program called Clean Air Cool Planet might offer benefits for Haverhill. He will find information about this.
  - New recommendations: Mike said that Ted Becker had suggested in an email that the MTC Green Schools Program might make a good recommendation. We will have to hear more about this from Ted.
  - New recommendations: We need a recommendation regarding building standards for new development. The Monarch project in Lawrence was believed to be LEED certified, for example. Mike and Jared will look into this.
- Page 20:
    - Formatting needs to be fixed.

May 14 had been set and publicized as the next meeting date.

The meeting ended at 9:20 pm

Minutes by Mike LaBonte