

**Green Committee, Town of East Haddam  
Regular Meeting  
River House  
7:00 P.M. Wednesday, August 6, 2008**

**1. Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Green Committee was called to order at 7: 05 P.M. by Chairman Ken Simon.

**A. Attendance:**

Regular members present: Ken Simon, Martha Hansen, Roger McNelly, Sue Staehly, Richard Watson, Toni McCabe,  
Alternate members present: Allen Compagno, Nancy Gieseey

Regular members absent: Yvonne Rubin, Jennifer Peacock, Jon Russell, Jonathan Morris

**2. Secretary's Report**

**A. Approval of 7-2-08 minutes**

The minutes of 7-2-2008 were reviewed. Ken Simon requested that in item 4 b, the action be corrected to state that he will find out about insurance, not Toni McCabe. Roger McNelly moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Toni McCabe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**3. Member's Reports**

**A.** Allen Compagno contacted Craig Clark of Northeast Utilities who will present information about the utility's energy conservation and rebate programs at tonight's meeting.

**B.** Sue Staehly reported that parking for carpooling is available in the following areas:

- the municipal parking lot behind Town Hall (until the town hall is moved to the Middle School)
- the old town hall/Grange on Town St. (limited parking available)
- the old Middle School (for about 2 years until construction starts)
- Nichols Field- mainly for commuters, the field is used by Park & Rec. primarily evenings & weekends.
- commuter lots in Chester (exit 6 off Rte. 9) and Colchester (exit 16 off Rte. 2)

State Park parking lots should not be used for carpooling; they close at sunset and have deed restrictions prohibiting non-recreational use.

A number of carpooling/ridesharing websites have been found and are listed on the Wiki. Toni McCabe and Sue Staehly agreed to form a carpooling task force with Yvonne Rubin to create a carpooling proposal for the town and possibly recommend ridesharing websites.

**C.** Toni McCabe reported that the school's Vo-Ag bus is not available for use as a carpooling vehicle.

**D.** Nancy Gieseey reported that one of the Senior Center buses may be available sometimes for local carpooling.

**4. New Business**

**A. Presentation by Craig Clark, Northeast Utilities**

Craig Clark is the program administrator for residential home energy efficiency efforts for the CT Energy Efficiency Fund administered through CL&P. Craig developed and manages the Home Energy Solutions (HES) program that serviced 6000 homes in 2007, and expects to service 8000 in 2008.

Craig distributed information about the CT Energy Efficiency Fund Community and Residential programs, CFLs, the Solar PV Rebate Program, Clean Energy Options thru CL&P, the Home Energy Solutions Program and grant information from New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF [www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org)).

CL&P has a Home Energy Solutions (HES) program for residential customers. Customers can apply for an energy audit and have their home analyzed for energy efficiency. The auditor will recommend improvements the resident can make to increase the home's energy efficiency. The auditor may also make some small improvements (caulking, weather-

stripping) after the audit and then retest the house. CL&P has found that spending money to improve efficiency helps people over the long term.

Residents who heat primarily with electricity or natural gas qualify for a free audit. Residents who heat primarily with oil or propane may be charged \$300 for the audit. Because many East Haddam residents heat with oil or propane Mr. Clark said that if at least 30 of those households apply for an audit, the price may be reduced since the auditors will be in the area. It may be possible to get a grant from NEGEF to help pay for HES audits and some low income (60% or less of CT's per capita income) residents may qualify for free audits regardless of their heating system. The HES program may also replace very inefficient refrigerators and furnaces and install insulation for qualified residents. People can call 1-877-947-3873 or go to the web site [www.CTEnergyInfo.com](http://www.CTEnergyInfo.com) for more information.

CL&P also offers Clean Energy options for electricity. Each bill contains an insert explaining the program. There is a small monthly surcharge (usually less than \$6 a month) depending on the amount of KWH a customer uses per month. The town will receive a free solar panel to use on one of its municipal buildings for every 100 East Haddam customers that sign up for a Clean Energy option with CL&P.

The CT Clean Energy Fund Solar PV Rebate Program will help pay for the installation of solar panels on residential, nonprofit and government buildings. More information is on the web site [www.ctcleanenergy.com/solar](http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/solar). The town of Portland, CT has installed solar panels on its schools, saving the town \$40,000 a year. After the rebates the town spent \$300,000. The system will pay for itself in 7.5 years at current electric rates.

The Green Committee will investigate getting energy audits for low income residents and those on a fixed income. There may also be help available for renters.

The committee discussed contacting local groups to help get the word out about the HES program.

- Rotary Club, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce
- Earth Charter – Dick Watson
- Food Bank
- Churches
- Senior Center – Nancy Gieseey
- East Haddam Land Trust- Nancy Gieseey
- Parent groups (PTO, EMPAC)

**Action:** Identify landlords in East Haddam (Toni McCabe).

Write an article about CT energy programs for the next (October) issue of East Haddam Events (Ken Simon).  
Spread the word about the HES program (all members).

## **B. Report on Colchester Energy and Fuel Conservation Committee – Ken Simon**

Ken Simon read a letter sent to Linda Hodges (Colchester's First Selectman) from Greg Plunkett, Colchester's Director of Facilities and Operations, about the findings of Colchester's Energy and Fuel Conservation Committee.

“Since its inception the Energy and Fuel Conservation Commission has identified ways in which the Town could control the cost of energy. These recommendations included both ideas for conserving energy as well as suggestions for the replacement of out dated, energy consuming mechanical and electrical devices. As they began meeting last year they visited all the large buildings owned by the Town. They assessed the mechanical and electrical devices in these buildings as well as the operating practices being employed.

### Already in place:

ISO Demand Response – saving the Town Approx \$50,000 this year.

CCM Energy purchasing consortium – Will be in place for next year

### Still to be done:

Expand the ISO program to other Town facilities that have generators.

Development of Town-wide policies that provide guidelines for acceptable space temperature limits, authorized energy consuming appliances, and efficient utilization of building use.

Utilize energy consultants to recommend to us what energy conservation measures should be implemented to reduce our current utility expenditure.

Taking advantage of incentive grants provided by CL&P, upgrade energy inefficient equipment and lighting.....”

Committee member Steve Wells prepared a summary listing the proposed energy projects and estimates of cost and savings to the town of Colchester.

Colchester has also prepared an RFQ – Request for Qualifications- document to be used to select a firm to provide a program of energy management services for the town. The selected firm would audit all municipal buildings and outline a program of energy management with guaranteed savings for the town. All the documents are posted on the Wiki under Research.

The Green Committee would like to have a similar report for East Haddam.

**Action:** Contact Jon Russell about an energy projects report (Ken Simon).

### **C. Review of the proposed EH Green Committee Wiki**

The Green Committee now has a Wiki, which is an online database using web pages that members can add to and edit themselves. The Wiki has pages allocated for the committee’s goals, project schedules, brainstorming, research, rough drafts, interesting links, interesting town residents, committee members, and meeting minutes. It will allow committee members to post and edit useful information (videos, documents, links to other web pages, etc.). Ken Simon handed out screen shots of several Wiki pages and explained how to use it. The Wiki is private for now but may be opened for public access in the future as part of the committee’s final report.

**Action:** Check out the Wiki (all members).

### **5. Audience of Citizens – no participation**

### **6. General Discussion**

#### **A. Review of Any Handout Material - none**

#### **B. Other**

Sue Staehly suggested checking out [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org), East Haddam, as a way to decrease the amount of items sent to the transfer station. Membership is free and allows members to post items they need or would like to give away.

**The next meeting will be held on September 3, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.**

### **7. Adjournment**

Allen Compagno moved to adjourn at 9:45 P.M.; the motion was seconded by Nancy Gieseey. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Hansen  
Secretary