



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE

Weston Building Committee

DRAFT MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2009

Present: Allen Swerdlowe (Chair. of the Sub-Committee), Bill Rappoport, Don Gary, Richard Wolf, Jack Davidoff, Lincoln Briggs; Global Warming Committee: Martin Strasmore; First Selectman Woody Bliss; Margaret Wirtenberg, Acting Sec'y, and Eric Robie, UTC Power.

The meeting came to order at 7:30p.m. in the Commission Room at Town Hall. Minutes of January 14, 2009 were approved (Gary, Rappoport).

Chair. Swerdlowe reported on Clean Energy Grants' status (still have funding), and the work of the Capital Committee, which expects some need for new boilers, especially at East House and the Middle School.

Mr. Eric Robie of United Technologies Power in South Windsor then showed an overview of stationary Fuel Cells in the UTC proprietary design.

Combined Heating and Power Solutions

This is a matter that relates to the power grid - compares efficiency of traditional power plants to UTC product. Mr. Robie reported on the new product (redesign of previous one to increase power, reduce waste and increase lifespan) "Model 400." He continued to explain the details of CO₂, NO_x, H₂O treatment and results in this new fuel cell. For more, please visit (last update 2-12-09) www.dsireusa.org

To be a project that is right for a fuel cell there are 4 basic questions to answer:

1. Is it served by pipeline natural gas?
2. Is the average year-round power demand at least 400kW?
3. Is the difference between electric and natural gas cost at least 2? (Example: 13cents/kWh - \$10/MMBtu Gas = 3)
4. Is there sufficient space? (~30ft x 40 ft or ~9 m x 12 m required)

In order to answer these questions, information will be sent to Mr. Robie.

QUESTIONS:

How long does a fuel cell last? Answer - with this model, est. 10 years before some of the parts lose efficiency. How loud is it? Answer - 65db at 10 feet. How does it work? Answer - something like what this says, from the Internet: <http://www.fuelcells.org/>

What about piping to and from the fuel cell itself? How much does it cost? How does it fit into the grid? Who else uses your product? What further engineering costs should Weston expect to

have to “up front?” And approximately what would this cost? Would a copy of the Kaestle-Boos study help judge the viability of a Weston fuel cell project?

Mr. Robie was thanked for his presentation and more data will be made available for following up with answers for Weston.

There are two manufacturers of fuel cells in CT, and both will be interviewed. In two weeks, at the next meeting of the AES, the other company will be invited to appear.

Smaller fuel cells were suggested as a possible alternative: <http://www.plugpower.com/>

Receiving funding is the key to success, another member asserted.

The date (tent.) for the next meeting is Feb. 25th at 7:30p.m. in the Commission Room at Town Hall, and the other CT fuel cell maker will be invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Wirtenberg, Acting Sec’y