

## **GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING**

**July 1, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.  
at Moreau Community Center**

PRESENT: Chairman Matthew Veitch; Supervisors Alan Grattidge, Richard Rowland; Kate Maynard, Jackie Bokus; Janice Hawk Baldwin, Hawk Drilling Company; John Ciovacco, Fil Fina, III, Aztech Geothermal

Chairman Veitch called the meeting to order.

Chairman Veitch introduced the Committee members and clerk.

On a motion by Mr. Grattidge, seconded by Mr. Rowland, the minutes of the meeting of May 27<sup>th</sup> were approved unanimously.

Chairman Veitch stated the Committee is looking for information on green initiatives for the Board of Supervisors to adopt. We would like from the presenters what they do; is it beneficial to the County; and cost savings, he said.

Mr. Ciovacco stated they do design and installation. They are an environmental service that has been in Ballston Spa for 15 years. He said they do excavating and drilling. He said they have installed a geothermal system in their building when they built it three years ago, and they have seven 500 ft. wells they use to exchange the temperature in the ground. In the wintertime, they pull heat out of the ground, and in the summertime, they put heat back into the ground, he said. Ms. Baldwin said they have done geothermal systems since the 1980's, and things have changed since then. She mentioned the biggest company is out of Vermont. She said the systems now are much more efficient and very reliable. She distributed copies of information on "The Geothermal Concept – ClimateMaster" – a homeowner's guide to geothermal heating and cooling comfort systems.

Mr. Ciovacco said they have a geologist on staff and professional engineers. We work with Hawk Drilling, he said. Ms. Baldwin mentioned you need the right wells to match the design of your building. Mr.

Ciovacco said geothermal has no outside equipment at all. He said incentives are available for the commercial sector. There is a federal tax deduction program for a new building - \$1.80/sf deductible expense if you meet certain criteria. He displayed a piece of a high density poly pipe that they use. He said the earth is a source of heat in the winter. A geothermal heat pump transfers underground heat into a building to provide heating. He said if someone wants to reduce their carbon footprint, there is no better way to do it than with a geothermal system.

Mr. Fina mentioned they are located on McCrea Hill Road in the Town of Ballston near Specialty Silicones. Mr. Ciovacco displayed a photo of their building.

Mr. Fina discussed a conventional typical commercial building in which you could get rid of the chiller and gas boiler and use geothermal. He said for buildings with roof top units, that is not a bad conversion. He said if you heat with steam or hot water, it is a start over retro fit. He explained how geothermal works in their building. It manages the building temperature and it manages the well, he said. He stated the heating and cooling bill in their 24,000 sf building year round on average is \$700/month. You can't find another building in the area that comes close to that, he said. He said there is probably an average of \$1.50/sf range on the total energy bill. He stated they used green material in all of their insulation. He said they have a whole green building presentation if anyone would like to go and see their building.

Mr. Ciovacco displayed a copy of "Information For Evaluating Geoexchange Applications" by the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium, in Washington, DC, that was prepared for NYSERDA. He said he could e-mail this to Chairman Veitch.

Chairman Veitch said after the last meeting, we asked the County DPW to put together a history of the solar panels at 50 West High Street, and he distributed a copy of this report to the Committee. He said he has been continuing discussions with Board Chairman Johnson to get someone to look at that to get some ideas. Mr. Grattidge said we would need to do a study of our options. Chairman Veitch said there is someone from

Skidmore doing a Cool City Campaign to get cities to be more energy efficient. We would like to look at day-to-day things for energy efficiency, he said. The Solar Consortium has reached out to me, and they study old systems and give recommendations on rehabbing, etc. He said this would have to go to the Buildings & Grounds Committee, probably in August, to see how we can go forward. Their cost would be zero to us because they are government funded, he stated. He mentioned the solar panels at 50 West High St. were installed in 1978.

On a motion by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Ms. Bokus, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann