

Minutes of the Meeting of the Nelson Vehicles Emissions Reduction Committee 3/6/20

Present: Dave Hazelwood, Gary Robinson, and Dave Upton

Dave U. called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

Dave U. explained that the role of the committee is to study ways in which harmful emissions of town owned vehicles can be reduced and ultimately eliminated. He explained that the committee will act in an advisory capacity to the Select Board and that we must abide by the requirement of NH RSA 91-A relate to the conduct of public meetings.

The committee discussed the following topics:

1. The impact of rising atmospheric CO2 levels on the Earth's climate.
2. Data on diesel fuel consumption by the Nelson Highway Department.
3. Goals for reducing diesel fuel consumption by town owned vehicles.
4. Maine's goals for reducing GHG emissions.
5. Maintenance expenses for Highway Department vehicles, 2012 to 2019.
6. Questions for the Road Agent re the need for maintenance on the 672B grader.

The committee viewed the PowerPoint presentation describing the Select Board's opposition to the purchase of a new 672G grader.

The committee agreed by consensus to the following plan of action:

VER Committee (VERC) Action Plan 3/6/20

1. Dave H. will review maintenance needs for the 672B with Mike T. prior to Town Meeting
2. Dave U. will present PowerPoint in opposition to purchasing a 672G at Town Meeting
3. VERC will develop a vehicle fuel consumption spreadsheet for Highway Department personnel to use to make records of the amount of fuel used and the miles traveled for the Peterbilt, the Freightliner, and the Dodge.
4. VERC will study the efficacy of using bio-diesel fuels in town owned vehicles; taking into account the negative impacts of the use of agricultural land, irrigation water, fertilizers, pesticides, and fossil fuels used in tilling, planting, growing, harvesting, processing, and transporting the crops used as feed stock.
5. VERC will study the application of hydrogen injection technology for diesel engines.
6. VERC will become familiar with the performance requirements and mechanical condition of existing heavy equipment used by the Highway Department in order to be able to recommend appropriate vehicles that make use of electric drive technologies.
7. VERC will develop engine idling procedures for town owned vehicles that reduce idling time to an absolute minimum.

The committee agreed that it would meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 2 pm in the Town Office to continue its work.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Upton