

DRAFT Thetford Energy Committee Meeting Minutes – Dec 11, 2018, 5pm, Town Hall

TEC Present: Bob Walker, Chris Hebb, Erica Ko, Mike Kiess, Alice Stewart

Guests Present: Phebe McCosker

Call to order: 5:00 PM

Review and approve minutes from Nov 13, 2018 meeting – Unanimously approved.

Proposed additional items:

VT Council on Rural Development Climate Economy Initiative - Mike (Mike willing to lead application process)

New England Grassroots Fund final report and remaining funds - Mary (Mike check with Mary on terms of grant)

LED conversion offer from Focus TEM - Bob - next meeting

EEP Update - Phebe and Alice

1. TEC Strategic Planning (30 Min)

5:00 PM Weatherization Planning group check in (Bob, Manny, Phebe)

From Bob: I did have a discussion a month or 2 ago with Paul Zabriskie, director of the Capstone Community Action Low Income Weatherization program - Capstone is the Community Action Program that serves Orange County/Thetford. Based on that discussion, I drafted the attached outline (below) of what our revived VAW program might look like. As a reminder, the main issues of concern to the select board were liability for volunteers (I think Capstone is willing to take that on) and town committee members raising funds that do not go directly to the town. We still need to figure that one out. I do have one idea I will share at our meeting tomorrow. Expecting we will also involve COVER in this revived/redesigned program, helping to train and oversee volunteers in some of the more simple weatherization measures that COVER volunteers typically do. I have not heard back from Paul yet. Will share when I do.

Phebe talked with Paul Zabriskie at VECAN. He expressed support, and pointed out liability concern and funding as his top concerns.

Manny proposed that fundraising could be handled separately from TEC between OCT and Capstone for Thetford projects.

5:15 PM Transportation / Renewables Planning group check in (Chris, Mike)

Chris and Mike include Phebe and Bob when we get together.

Mike will resend template. Groups will send to all by January 4, 2019.

2. Recent events (10 min)

5:30 PM VECAN and TSCS 2 reports (attendees and Mike)

A. Reports

B. Lessons Learned

C. Follow Up

EEP Update - Kimberly Gilbert at TRORC working on questions. Goals, Recommendations, Policies almost ready to circulate to other town entities after TEC review. Alice and Phebe will present at January meeting.

VECAN - Chris attended session on solar for low-income residents. Group from Michigan working with SEVCA. Raised enough funds to install 100kW array on SEVCA property. Still working on allocation of net metering credits. A potential model for us to follow. Chris and Mike explore allocation models and applicability to TSCS2.

VECAN - Erica talked with legislators and is planning to follow up to see how we can utilize new opportunities like electric vehicles for low income. Impressed by Michael Schenk presentation on how to influence action rather than attitude.

TSCS - Mike will check in with Dori to see if she has heard from Selectboard on approval of preferred status.

3. Upcoming events/activities (10 min)

A. Status

B. Internal and External help needed

4. New Opportunities

- A. Grants
- B. Partner programs and projects
- C. New potential partners, volunteers, other resources

5. Energy tip for town newsletter (5 min)

6. Financial Report (5 min)

5:50 PM 2019 Budget (Alice)

2019 submission has not yet been reviewed by Selectboard.

Everyone who went to VECAN should have submitted receipts directly to Tracy for reimbursement.

Next TEC Meeting Date – January 8, 2018

Annual Report Due - Bob and Mike will draft, circulate, due Jan 9, 2018

Attachment from Bob:

Community Volunteer Assisted Weatherization (VAW) Campaign

The Weatherization Assistance Program can help low income Vermonters save money on home heating and increase home comfort. However, a shortage of funding and resources limits the number of jobs that can be performed. A collaborative program combining community volunteer and financial support with CAP expertise could help expand the number of completed low income weatherization jobs in towns.

- CAP Weatherization Agency could [*UV projects to include support from COVER*]
 - o Provide job leads - identify/confirm Wx customers through LIHEAP list
 - o Conduct audit – test in/out, develop work-scope and materials list
 - o Provide technical support, training, oversight and insurance coverage of volunteers
 - o Provide materials
 - o Install all non-volunteer measures
 - o Apply for incentives (on VAW HP/non-Wx jobs)
 - o Provide federal and state financial support toward jobs
 - o Channel charitable donations from residents and businesses for CAP agency labor performed and materials installed in that town
- Home Energy Action Team (HEAT) Volunteers
 - o Prep home by moving materials away from work areas
 - o Install simple weatherization measures
- § Door/window weather-stripping, sweeps,
- § Insulated, weather-stripped attic hatch
- § Install foam board on rim joists and poured foundation walls
- § Install LEDs in all lights
- § Insulate hot water pipes
- § Seal and insulate hot air ducts
- § Install vapor barriers
- § Other?
 - Homeowners, if they have some resources, could help
 - o Help cover some costs of materials
 - o Prepare site for work
 - o Help with VAW work
 - o Provide food for HEAT volunteers, etc
 - Town ECs
 - o Promote program
- § Recruit homes in need of weatherization help

§ Recruit VAW volunteers

- Support fundraising through town donation to the CAP agency at town meeting and donations from town residents and businesses [*This may have to work differently or require legislative change as town committee members may currently not be able to assist with fundraising that does not channel through the town*]
- Efficiency Vt
 - Promote the program to recruit homes in need of weatherization help
 - Provide incentives for non-Wx jobs
 - Provide incentives on heat pumps and other high efficiency measures installed (LEDs)
- Town residents and businesses
 - Provide financial support for VAW Wx jobs
 - Receive statement of how funds were used and projected savings (fuel, \$ and carbon)
 - Receive federal tax credit for donation to charitable agency
- Building Performance Professionals Association – Support program, recruit HP contractors to support DIY jobs