

Thetford Energy Committee January 10, 2017 ~~Draft~~ Approved Minutes

Meeting started at: 5:10 PM

TEC Members Attending: Bob Walker, Alice Stewart, Ellen Blumberg, Manohar Grewal (via Skype), Mike Kiess, Joel Legunn

Others: Phebe McCosker, Marty Jacobs, Eric Pyle, Richard Krzal, Rick Biddle, Roger Thrall

Review and approve minutes from 12/7/16 meeting - Unanimously approved. Copy of approved minutes sent to Town Clerk and Select Board.

TEC Annual Report – Reviewed draft Annual Report due this week. Committee approved draft. Bob will submit to Selectboard and Town Clerk.

Meeting with Selectboard – We reviewed issues related to 1/4/17 meeting with SB and the Committee Member handbook to see if we have other requirements. Bob checked with Tracy before the meeting. She said the issues for us were to get our agendas posted on the 3 approved public bulleting boards (Village Store, outside Town Hall and the Thetford Hill PO) at least 48 hours in advance of our meetings and minutes posted on the town website within 5 days of our meetings. Chris and Phebe verified that they posted the agendas more than 48 hours ahead of our meeting and offered to continue posting before future meetings. Bob had thought that Marty was posting our minutes on the town website, but Alice noticed that our minutes have not been posted for the past 2 years. She will get access to our page on the website and see if they are there or not and help get them posted if not.

OCT is holding funds that were donated for weatherization. Jill and Bob talked about how to transfer that money to our TEC Weatherization projects account. It sounds like the Town may have to approve our TEC Weatherization project account as a destination for the funds. *Mike will write to Stuart and Jill to request the Selectboard assistance to designate the account.* We will invite John Bacon, TEC liaison, to all future meetings and copy him agendas & minutes. We will also ask to attend the April or May 2017 Selectboard meeting to introduce new Selectboard members to the work of the TEC.

Energy Chapter of Town Plan – Update on timing and process of working with TRORC on updating the energy chapter of our town plan to comply with Act 174. We did NOT get chosen as a town to work with initially by TRORC – see rejection letter from Chris Sargent. Here is what he said re timing for them to work with us: “There is not currently additional funding to pay me to revise your energy plan, but we will be producing data and maps for each of our communities by the end of April (hopefully sooner). I can meet with you folks to roll that data out and from then on am happy to offer comments on whatever you develop. There **is** a possibility that an additional round of funding under this FY17 DPS allocation for Enhanced Energy Planning may become available in the next few months. Thetford will remain on the list of interested communities and if another round does happen this fiscal year, I'll be sure to let you know!”

Volunteer Assisted Weatherization – We decided to wait until after Weatherization account funding is resolved to discuss timing and process for moving forward with a next house.

LED Distribution Update – So far we have distributed about 430 of the 500 LEDs through the food shelf. We decided to use some of the remaining LEDs as incentive to get folks to sign up for Weatherize

Weatherize Upper Valley – Discuss details of coming weatherize events and promotion
- **Regional Launch Event**, Wed. Jan 18, Montshire Museum

- **Thetford Kick-off** Feb 7th (9th backup snow date) at Thetford Center Community Center.
- **Tabling at Recycling Sat. 1/7 & 1/14**
- **Table at town meeting.**
- **Promotional messages** and timetable for distribution on the list serve
- **Recruit Home Energy Champions and develop Success Stories**
- **Banner** – develop some creative display like Norwich has done with the snowmen and the signs. Maybe have TES and TA kids each build snowmen on their fronts. Maybe get other kids to do it at other places; i.e. the green, in front of the churches etc. Make it a contest or something!
- Other???

6pm - Meet with Thetford Home Energy Champions to discuss how folks can help promote the program – Marty Jacobs, Eric Pyle, Richard Krzal, Rick Biddle, Roger Thrall joined the meeting.

We reviewed the HPwES program, and the requirements to receive incentives.

Thetford has been pretty successful at supporting Weatherization, with a high number of participating households, and our efforts have been replicated statewide.

We reviewed the Weatherize Upper Valley effort to help even more people in 14 Upper Valley towns.

- We have gathered a group of HPwES contractors who are willing to provide an initial inspection without the upfront cost of the audit and full audit report.
- Then households can consider what efforts to do in what order, and whether to seek financing.
- There is a lottery for prizes for participating households.
- Champions are needed to help people through the process, from awareness to completion.
- What can Volunteers do?:
 - o Get the word out
 - o Build a weatherize snowman - TEC has weatherize yard signs
 - o Talk about your experiences with friends, neighbors and at public forums
 - o Share your success story – picture, quote, what work you did, energy and money you are saving. TEC has a template and can put it together for you.
 - o Host Open house
 - o Attend Tabling – 14 Jan at recycling (we got about 15 people signed up on 7 Jan!), 4 Mar Town Meeting,
 - o Attend Events – 18 Jan 6:00 PM at the Montshire Museum, 7 Feb 6:30 PM at the Thetford Center Community Association
 - o In your social circles, share info and offer help
 - o Help people gather information – fuel purchases over last 3 years, square footage of heated area of home
 - o Help someone sign up online
 - o Help enter data from paper forms if people are not comfortable online
 - o Follow up with people after they have signed up
 - o Help people prepare for their inspection and work they decide to do
 - o Recruit other helpers for cleaning out basements and attics (One Day's Work for TA students?) so contractors can access work areas
 - o TA Parents' Association
 - o Thetford Elementary School take home flyers
 - o Churches
 - o TA Basketball games
 - o TEN lunches and Thursday coffee meetings

Energy Tip: Weatherize Upper Valley and Feb. 7 launch event at Thetford Center Community Center.

Next TEC Meeting Date – Next meeting Tues Feb. 14th, 5pm at Town Hall. Discuss if we want to change date due to Valentines Day