

## Thetford Energy Committee Meeting (February 23, 2017, 5pm, Town Hall) Minutes

**Meeting started at: 5:09 PM**

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

**Others:** Phebe McCosker, Mary Bryant

**Review and approve minutes from 1/10/17 meeting** - Unanimously adopted as written. Sent to Select Board Assistant Marty Moses, Town Clerk Tracy Borst, and TEC liaison John Bacon.

### **Review Budget reports from Ellen**

**Volunteer Assisted Weatherization Account** – Bob has sought clarification on how the TEC might access and use about \$3,500 of funds in Ompompanoosuc Community Trust (OCT) for our next VAW job from the Selectboard several times, but has thus far received no update from Selectboard. Town Treasurer Jill Graff has suggested that the TEC might solicit the money in the form of a grant from the OCT to be transferred into the TEC's Weatherization account and OCT is amenable to that suggestion. Jill's interpretation of state regulations is that the TEC may not be involved in fundraising of future private donations going to OCT to support TEC weatherization efforts, and the TEC has said we are willing to comply with her interpretation. We hope this can be resolved soon so we can organize another VAW job for this spring. As a last resort, TEC could petition to add Weatherization funding as an article for the 2018 town meeting.

**LED Distribution Update** – So far we have distributed about 430 of the 500 LEDs we bought through the food shelf. We are using about 30 of the remaining LEDs as incentive to get folks to sign up for Weatherize and the rest are being distributed through the food shelf. Once they are all gone, we need to send final report to the bulb funder.

**Weatherize Upper Valley** – Discuss details of coming weatherize events and promotion. We currently have 32 folks signed up, but only 3 have filled out their profiles. Need to continue following up with registrants to get them to move forward. Feb 7<sup>th</sup> forum was sparsely attended due to weather, but we were able to provide individual help to the 5 households who attended. Phebe attended recent Weatherization team call. Contractors are open to DIY projects.

- Ellen, Phebe, Mike and Bob are following up with people who are not moving forward in the process.
- **Table at town meeting.** March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at TA. TEC members who will help staff the table include Ellen, Mike and Bob with Alice and Marc maybe. Set up to start at 8am. We will probably break down after the lunch break. We will have Weatherize signup sheets and LED give-aways, handouts and blowups of a couple of the Champion Success Stories.
- **Promotional messages** and timetable for distribution on the list serve. Will do a different Champion each week on listserv. "What does these people have in common" for March newsletter – Mike to submit.
- **Working with Home Energy Champions to schedule open home tours, reach out to friends** – Blower door test, cold-climate heat pump popular for open house attendees.
- **Present at existing groups** – Mike to present at TEN on April 27<sup>th</sup>, churches, schools, TA Parents' email distribution would print a short blurb. Draft: "Save Energy, Save Money, Make your Home more Comfortable by Weatherizing, with help from your Thetford Energy Committee. Learn more at <http://vitalcommunities.org/energy/weatherize/connecticutriver/> - Dean of Academics Marc Chabot, Thetford Energy Committee Member." Marc will work on getting sent to TA parents.
- **Thetford Elementary School take home flyers** – Alice says only electronic to parents these days.

Alice checking on a POC at TES.

- **TA Basketball games**
- Other??? Isabelle's placemats. Weatherize business cards at Isabelle's grocery stores and town library tables.

**Town Meeting Day Energy Surveys** – We discussed a request to distribute energy surveys at town meeting day. Seems like value is reminding people of what they can do to save energy. TEC conclusion is that our Town Meeting and Weatherize efforts are the highest priority use of our time. Alice will contact Rob Fish at Energy Action Network [rfish@eanvt.org](mailto:rfish@eanvt.org) and express our regrets.

**Climate Economy Model Communities Program** – We discussed this program and whether we should apply. Requires 4 components – business, TEC, low income, steering committee and would be a big stretch for TEC to create a proposal by the March 22 deadline. We also don't know if our committee is ready for this kind of proposal. Conclusion – TEC should not be a lead facilitator for Thetford for 2017, but we are willing to share information about this program with others in town who might be interested in collaborating on an application for next year. Bob will send link to Thetford distribution link.

**TSCS** – The Selectboard, Thetford Planning Commission and TRORC all signed letters stating their support for listing the TSCS site as a preferred Category II site. Norwich Technologies, our contractor, has confirmed that they can get financing for this project, given that it is Category II. Dori is working on the final project cost, given the increased costs of re-applying for the "Certificate of Public Good", which under the new rules requires more expert witnesses, including an archaeological assessment. If anyone has ins with an archaeologist, please let Dori know.

**TEC Website and EAN Dashboard** – Alice will talk to Tracy to help update TEC website, perhaps we will add link to dashboard.

**Mary Bryant/Transition Town** – Mary is interested in becoming a member of the TEC and in promoting the idea of Transition Towns in Thetford. Transition towns have long term approaches to climate change and energy supply changes. There is a transition training for leaders – educational period is long because you are building grass movements cultural change. TEC unanimously nominated Mary to be a TEC member. Bob will forward Mary's nomination to Selectboard for approval.

**Energy Tip:** Alice will send people link to the Energy Surveys.

**Next TEC Meeting Date** – Next meeting Tues Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>, 5pm at Town Hall.