

Thetford Energy Committee Meeting (May 9, 2017, 5pm, Town Hall) Minutes

Meeting started: 5:00 PM

TEC Members Attending: Marc Chabot, Ellen Blumberg, Mike Kiess, Bob Walker, Joel LeGunn.

Others: Mary Bryant, Phoebe McCosker

Review and approve minutes from 4/5/17 meeting. Unanimously approved without amendment.

Review Issues to Discuss with Select Board at 5/22 Meeting

Bob has not heard back from Selectboard yet. We will plan to attend for public comment period if not added to Selectboard agenda.

- Appoint Mary Bryant to TEC
- Reappoint Bob and Alice to new terms
- Update on Weatherize, Thetford Strafford Community Solar and any other current and future projects
- Volunteer Assisted Weatherization – Tim Briglin is contacting the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and Vt. Secretary of State to see if there are things we could do to make this program continue to operate within the TEC.
- Decision on process to move Weatherization funds from OCT to town TEC
- Report from Energy Planning and Renewable Siting Meeting hosted by TRORC on May 15th

Weatherize Upper Valley – Goal 29 homes making improvements: 20 scheduled home visits, 9 received proposals, 2 have scheduled work, 1 completed work. Update progress on project and discuss details of coming weatherize events and promotion.

- Seems like we have reached most of the homes that are able to finance/manage a significant change. Maybe our next opportunity is helping people make small improvements over time. Note that Efficiency VT incentives are not structured for small incremental changes.
- The heat pump and pellet stove transition is attractive to people, maybe we can support some weatherization at the same time.
- Maybe a forum on heating? Scott Nichols of TARM and Morty Bailey of Lyme Green Heat usually willing.
- Find sources like YouTube to be an ongoing resource for heating technology small dose education. Maybe Vital Communities “hosting”? *Phebe will check to see what is already on Efficiency Vermont website. Joel will look at VEEP website.*
- Bring up this idea at the Energy Roundtable at Monthshire next Wednesday.

Thetford Strafford Community Solar – From Dori Wolfe: “All draft reports from experts are in except the archaeologist. We are hoping to get the application in before the end of the month.” *Phebe will draft message to Dori to clarify our understanding of the recruitment and external investment approach, and ask about timing.* We hope to host a public forum to promote membership in TSCS when the project has been approved, all numbers are determined and construction date is set. We will also produce and distribute a flyer listing other community solar options should TSCS not work out for some.

Post Mills Landfill PV – Bob Haynes from Green Mountain Economic Development Corp. talked with Robert Dostos from GMP about setting up a meeting at the site. Hope to do it in next several weeks. Bob H. will let Bob W. know when the meeting is scheduled. Green Mountain Economic Development Corp still thinks they can take ownership of the land without liability for the property. It is not clear what size an array would be, based on GMP grid capacity, new PSB rules, and uncapped area on the property. *Bob Walker will let TEC know when he hears from Bob Haynes.*

Energy Planning and Renewable Siting Meeting with TRORC – Meeting May 15, 6-8pm, Montshire

Museum. Information and training session for regional and municipal plans. Thetford Planning Commission may be grateful if TEC is able to participate and bring info to the Planning Commission and Selectboard. TEC members Mike, Bob, Phebe, Mary, Joel are planning to attend. We do not have agenda, so we will collect information and try to provide a summary for Selectboard and Planning Commission. **We will meet at park and ride at 5:40 to carpool.** Bob will contact Kevin O'Hara of Planning Commission and RSVP to TRORC.

Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable – Several TEC members going. We will divide ourselves up to participate in small group discussions. May 17, Montshire Museum. Purpose is to share some innovative projects and lessons learned from many regional projects. **We will meet at park and ride at 4:40 to carpool.**

Community Solar Discussion – Bruce Genereaux/Green Mountain Community Solar asked Alice, “Any avenues for me to present the offsite solar option to Thetford folks?” Bruce might rent the Thetford Community Center, but TEC is not ready to endorse a provider or host a forum now. When the TSCS project is ready for promotion and additional recruitment, TEC is willing to offer information about Green Mountain Community solar and other opportunities for those who are not ready to invest in TSCS, but would like to participate in community solar. The part of the movie "Hurricane to Climate Change" that discusses the investment in local community might be useful.

Movie Showing – request by Becca White/SunCommon to show "Hurricane to Climate Change" - Here is the [link for the trailer](#) of the movie "Hurricane to Climate Change", and here is the [full movie on vimeo](#). Mary watched the movie and was impressed by the variety of speakers and ideas. Keene, NH is a case study for adaptation, resilience, and local investment. Movie felt positive. Early November might be a good time to present the movie, could involve DPW, Selectboard, other towns. Bob and Marc will get back to Becca to say thanks and let her know our intentions – we want to inspire and facilitate community discussion, but not promote a particular company. Becca will be at the Energy round table at the Montshire on Monday. We may invite her to speak as member of the WRJ selectboard about their resiliency effort.

Energy Tip: Refrigerator best practices from Energy Star:
https://www.energystar.gov/products/appliances/refrigerators/best_practices

Follow these guidelines to reduce the amount of energy your refrigerator uses:

- **Set the appropriate temperature.**
Keep your refrigerator at 35 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Place your fridge in a cool place.**
Position your refrigerator away from a heat source such as an oven, a dishwasher, or direct sunlight from a window.
- **Allow air circulation behind the fridge.**
Leave a few inches between the wall and the refrigerator, and keep the condenser coils clean if you have an older model. Read the user's manual to learn how to safely clean coils. Coil cleaning brushes can be purchased at most hardware stores.
- **Check the door seals.**
Make sure the refrigerator seals around the door are airtight. If not, replace them.
- **Keep the door closed.**
Minimize the amount of time the refrigerator door is open.

Next TEC Meeting Date – June 13, 2017