

# Thetford Energy Committee Meeting Minutes – 1/9/18, 5pm, Town Hall

**Meeting started: 5:20pm**

**TEC Members Attending:** Bob Walker, Alice Stewart, Mary Bryant, Joel Legunn. Manny Grewal and Mike Kiess participated by phone.

**Others:** Phebe McCosker, Erica Ko, Carole Petrillo, Pete Thoenen

**We voted to add these items to the Agenda:**

- **Review and approve TEC 2017 Annual Report**
- **Approve recommendation of Erica Ko as a TEC member to the SB to replace Marc Chabot who has resigned due to time constraints**
- **Discuss a carbon tax forum.**

**Review and approve minutes from 12/18/17 meeting**

We changed wording to be clear that we are asking the Select Board to appoint Pete Thoenen to the TEC. Mary moved the changed minutes, Alice and Joel seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Annual Report** - We changed wording concerning how to find out what events the TEC is hosting. Mary moved, Alice 2nded, approved. Bob will submit to Tracy and see about getting a photo of Ellen to place with the report.

We will name the 2018 Sustainability Program in memory of Ellen.

**Approving Erica Ko to take Marc Chabot's place** Marc Chabot regrettably resigned from the TEC due to time constraints with his work at TA. He has offered to continue being our contact to Thetford Academy. The TEC unanimously approved asking the SB to appoint Erica as a member of the TEC. Erica will send a letter of interest to Bob, who will forward it to the Select Board.

**Enhanced Energy Planning Update** – Mike reported that he sends the EEP notes to all TEC members and we agreed that we will include these (following) in our TEC meeting minutes. Two Rivers went through our Town plan and highlighted areas in the town plan that already meet the requirements for the EEP. We will look at targets for renewable energy sources and see how we will address the total energy requirements. We need to come up with 15 to 20 times as much as we have now. TEC recommends that the EEP stay open to all renewable technologies as possibilities: technology will change over the next 32 years.

Notes from 02 Jan 2018 subcommittee meeting:

Annex vs Revision:

Our output can be an annex to the draft town plan, providing more specific plans for the general goals.

OR

Our output can be suggested revisions to the existing draft.

Subcommittee Homework - We need to choose which way we will go.

Policy:

We want to create a specific energy strategy based on goals in the draft town plan.

Energy committee, Selectboard, and others will implement.

If we reference zoning in the plan, it gives the zoning “substantial deference” when the PUC considers permits.

We should reference existing zoning and regulation in our document

Standards document so far:

Kimberly and Chris walked us through their review of our draft town plan against the list of standards

Page 5:

Thetford Municipal Template – Energy Data (Revised)

Kimberly and Chris updated tables 1B and 1D and 10.

Subcommittee homework – review all numbers and see which are OK and which need adjustment

Maps:

[http://www.trorc.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Thetford\\_Energy.pdf](http://www.trorc.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Thetford_Energy.pdf) has old data but useful pdf maps

<http://trorc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4243f54f3255486986a83fa727050f89>

has interactive map

Subcommittee Homework – compare pdf map to digital map. Apply constraints one at a time in interactive map to see how accurate they are. Think about how we want to encourage development based on constraints. See what layers may need to be added. We may want to show specific town level constraints, such as wildlife corridors between forest blocks.

Next meetings 4:30 at Town Hall:

SubCommittee internal prep 30 Jan

With TRORC Chris and Kimberly 6 Feb

**Town Meeting Resolution Regarding Energy and Climate** – Reviewed resolution language as changed by Stuart, Chris and Phebe. The TEC will bring the resolution to the Selectboard to request inclusion in the town meeting warning. Bob will email it to SB. Mike will speak to it at the SB on January 15. TEC will speak to it at Town Meeting (Mike will speak to it). Approved. We will just use page 1 of the document, with the 5 signature spaces, to be sure that there is not a problem with signatures on a separate page. Phebe will organize tabling at recycling 9:30 to 11:30. Alice will contact Marc to see about new voters at TA. Phebe will put copies at Isabel's, Town Hall and Latham Library as places to sign. Bob will note this in the Town list serve. Phebe will write a short version of the resolution for the list serve.

**2018 Sustainability Programs** – TEC was awarded a \$2,200 grant from New England Grassroots Fund to produce the series Thetford 2050: The Good Life in a Post Fossil Fuel Era. Thanks Mary for all your hard work on this. Mary would like to kick off the series March 10 (after town meeting) with the movie "Tomorrow" followed by a dinner and discussion at the tables.

March 18<sup>th</sup> tentative – Minisplits and geothermal

April 15<sup>th</sup> tentative – Vermont and/or *Hurricanes to Climate Change*. Discussion of power walls (batteries). Mary will ask our first responders to interface with questions of emergency preparedness in terms of this work.

Summer - Cultivate a local food supply

September 22 – transportation

October – local food

We would like to promote the series at the Town Meeting – Erica will help Mary with promotional material design.

**Open Meeting Rules** - Erica will reach out to Tracy about open meeting laws.

**Future of the TEC** – Discussion of next steps for the TEC, succession of leadership and recruitment of new TEC members. Bob would like to step back from the Chair role in 2018. Consider going through the Strategic Energy Toolkit EC planning process developed Vital Communities available on line at <http://www.nhenergy.org/strategic-energy-action.html> . Consider what parts are most applicable to

us and how we might work through this material. Pete has worked with this document and speaks highly of it. We would like to schedule a “retreat” where we review this document. Four hours would be good. Mike, Pete and Mary will look at this. Everyone is encouraged to read through the Toolkit and discuss what parts of it seem relevant at our next meeting. They will bring a couple of possible dates to the next meeting along with other logistics. Mike is willing to be our meeting organizer/administrator for transition. Bob has been heading up this committee for 17 years. We approved many thanks and appreciation for Bob’s long commitment to this work.

**TEC Website** – Bob noticed that the TEC 2017 meeting minutes are not on our website page and that the program info on our homepage is very dated. We need to get these things cleaned up. Alice will communicate with Tracy re getting access to edit the TEC website page. She hopes to start this work before our next meeting.

## Updates and Reports

- **Thetford Strafford Community Solar** – Dori has heard from the PUC that the hearing officer is reviewing the case. She will next be in Strafford February 15 & 16, so if we hear soon, maybe we can schedule the public meeting for that time frame. This would include one more recruitment effort for the project. The Town and TA are interested. TEC thinks there would be a better turnout on Thursday, Feb 15. We need lead time to make this meeting happen. So if we know that the CPG has been approved by the end of January, we will go for this date.

- **Post Mills Landfill PV** – Green Mountain Economic Development Corp. is in the process of communication with GMP on what size project might make most sense to develop on the landfill site.

**Energy Tip:** Phebe will condense the Town Meeting Resolution to its gist and Alice will submit it to the Feb. town newsletter.

Bob has sent us info about the ESSEX plan being presented to the legislature. Respond as you will.

**Carbon Tax Forum** The Hartford Energy Commission is organizing a public forum on the topic of a possible state carbon tax - pros and cons. They invite Thetford to co-sponsor. Draft concept:

- 4-town sponsorship (Hartford, Norwich, Thetford, Hartland) if all are interested;
- on a Monday evening, Feb or March (so legislators can attend if they'd like to);
- no food (more complicated than it needs to be);
- possibly at Montshire? other venue?;
- an informed but opinion-neutral panel (say, Janet Milne/Rich Howarth/Elizabeth Wilson);
- special invitations to VPIRG, EIVT, VNRC, Matt Cota, Mark Curran, David Mears, etc. so they can be in the audience if they like.

TEC approved sponsoring this. Pete will be our contact for this. Bob will reply.

**Next TEC Meeting Date** – Feb 13th, 5pm, Town Hall