

Thetford Energy Committee Meeting Draft Minutes – 2/13/18, 5pm, Town Hall

Meeting started: 5:10 PM

TEC Members Attending: Chris Hebb, Alice Stewart, Erica Ko, Bob Walker, Mary Bryant, Mike Kiess

Others: Phebe McCosker, Li Shen

Review and approve minutes from 1/9/18 meeting - Unanimously approved as written

Erica Ko and Pete Thoenen named to TEC to take Marc Chabot's place - The Select Board officially appointed Erica and Pete to the TEC. Congrats, thanks and welcome aboard. We look forward to having your help and leadership. Do either Erica or Pete, or anyone else want to take over Ellen Blumberg's role as Liaison to the Town Treasurer? *If anyone is willing, please contact Bob.*

Town Meeting Table and Resolution Regarding Energy and Climate –The Vermont League of Cities and Towns said that town meeting resolutions should only include the question to the Town's people and advised the SB that all of the introductory "Where as..." statements validating why the resolution is important and should be supported, should be removed from the resolutions. The SB approved including the article on the warning with this change. Following is the final wording of the article, which is under "Other non-binding business" at the end of the warning:

"Shall the town encourage the Selectboard to improve energy efficiency through conservation and renewable measures, and send a letter to the legislature urging it to commit to at least 90% renewable energy for all people in Vermont by 2050, ensure that the transition to renewable energy is fair and equitable for all residents, and halt any expansion of fossil fuel pipelines?"

Should this article pass, a letter shall be sent from the Town of Thetford to our State Representatives and Senator, the Speaker of the Vermont House, the President Pro Tempore of the Vermont Senate, and the Governor, including the count of votes supporting and opposed to the article. "

Stuart Blood or Phebe will to present a statement on why to support the article. Mike will present a statement on how the Enhanced Energy Plan relates to the article. TEC can answer any questions. Stuart Blood and Phebe and Mike will circulate comments in advance for review by TEC. Bob will send out a notice to the listserv and our email list notifying about the article and encouraging folks to attend the meeting and support the article.

2018 Sustainability Programs – Mary and Erica presented draft promo materials for the first few events and plans for promoting the events going forward, and we discussed additional promotion including listserv notices, Valley News calendar and letters, town meeting handouts, posters hung around town, etc.

Suggested posting a general announcement of the series, then the detailed posts: at least 3 times each starting at least 2 weeks ahead.

Erica copy Mike in Thetford listserv postings and he will post to all neighboring listservs.

Mary will bring her draft budget to TEC next meeting and we can agree how much to supplement from our committee budget.

Mary setting dates for fall events – working with TA, will also check with Thetford Hill Church and North Thetford Church.

Resiliency and response event – involve Mariah Whitcomb, at firehouse. Consider showing Hurricanes to Climate Change movie in advance of the meeting with Thetford emergency response folks.

Mary and Erika please talk to surrounding town energy committees and see if any of them want to join in. For town meeting – combined poster on seats – ask Tracy how many copies. Can get copies online if Tracy cannot make copies. Collect leftover fliers after town meeting and put at Latham Library.

For bulletin boards – one event per poster.

Thetford Strafford Community Solar – The TSCS project was issued a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) on 2/7. The project can begin construction after April 15. Norwich Solar Technologies is ready to go on that front. 90% of the Town's average annual energy usage will be covered through net-metering credits at a 10% discount. The balance of the energy produced, less that owned by shareholders, will cover a portion of Thetford Academy's energy usage at the same 10% discount.

We will accept new shareholders through April 15, with shares at \$2.81/Watt for three panels (likely 990 Watts total). The cost of the array includes both upfront costs of permitting, site preparation, and document development; and system engineering, procurement, construction, and interconnection costs. Community solar array owners will buy their solar panels and receive solar net metering credits from the array. The cost of the array does not include annual operating costs -- 15% of the output from community solar members shares will be assigned to help pay for annual operating costs.

To reserve shares, the attached updated Share Reservation Form needs to be filled out with the \$100 deposit per share. Regardless of how many shareholders we gather, the project will be a success as we have the town and Thetford Academy as off-takers, saving both entities money while providing renewable power. As always, additional shareholders are welcome on a first come, first served basis, so pass along to friends. All the paperwork is on-line at [TSCS](#).

Discuss membership promotion, including handouts for town meeting, listserv announcements, a public meeting with Dori participating via Skype, etc.

Ask Dori to write posting – Bob

Promote to Solarize list from Vital Communities – Mike

Thetford Solar Database - Chris

Listserv and SERG Thetford list a couple of times - Bob

Handouts at town meeting – Bob ask Dori

Li will ask Dori for final letter for Selectboard to sign

Enhanced Energy Planning Update – We are going to work with Chris to break our approach into manageable chunks. Met with Chris Damiani and Kimberly Gilbert together on 20 Feb for that planning. Meeting schedule:

1. Data - Analysis and Targets – Wed Mar 7, 4:30 – 6:00 (internal meeting Tues 20 Feb 4:30 – 6:00)

Look at our revised municipal template

See what comments we have for Chris & Kimberly – can copy Norwich format

Mike will set up Google Doc as a place for brainstorming input

We will target 1st Tuesdays for meeting with Chris and Kimberly. (We will target our internal meetings 2 weeks ahead of those.)

2. Transportation – April 3 (March 20)

3. Conservation and Energy – May 1 (April 17)

4. Mapping 1 – June 5 (May 22)

5. Mapping 2 – July 3 (June 18)

6. Review – Aug 7 (July 24)

Chris and Kimberly will be writing based on inputs from sub-committee.

Subcommittee will bring draft sections to each TEC meeting. After TEC meeting, will pass draft sections to Planning Commission.

Vermont Climate Action Communities Workshop – Feb. 15th : Town energy committees are invited to attend an informational workshop on *Vermont Climate Action Communities (VCAC)*. The workshop is being held as part of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns’ Local Government Day on February 15th. VCAC is designed to engage Vermont municipalities to make and fulfill commitments under the [Vermont Climate Pledge Coalition](#) – a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions levels from 2005 by 26-28% by 2025. Under the program, municipalities are encouraged to achieve deep energy efficiency savings, reduce local emissions, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and provide locally supported renewable energy generation for municipalities and the communities they serve. The workshop will include an overview on how municipalities can participate, along with presentations from municipalities who are implementing creative solutions. The workshop will be held on Thursday, February 15th from 1:30-3:00 pm at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. Click [here](#) to register for the workshop. Questions: feel free to contact Lisa Goodell, VLCT at (802) 229-9111 or info@vlct.org. *Bob will attend to learn more and update TEC.*

Open Meeting Rules – Erica got information from Tracy and reported about electronic communication and what constitutes a meeting. Erica reviewed documentation and guidance from Tracy. VT Secretary of State's website provides this guideline for Open Meeting Law: <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/media/786069/oml-rev-sept-2016.pdf> *All - will be careful to reply individually when sharing draft documents by email. Do NOT reply to all with comments or edits. Only reply to the individual seeking comments.*

Future of the TEC – Continue the discussion. The TEC should review 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. *Due to work changes, Mike is unable to be our meeting organizer/administrator for transition, but will ask if Pete has time.*

TEC Website – Updates from Alice – she got template from Tracy, *edited on paper and will see if Marti can do the simple deletions and try to connect with Tracy some Monday night to complete edits. Erica offered to help.*

Post Mills Landfill PV – No updates from Green Mountain Economic Development Corp.

Announcements

Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable will be **Tuesday, May 8, 5-8pm** at the Montshire Museum in Norwich. You can register anytime at VitalCommunities.org/Energy/Roundtable.

Wood Heat Challenge – Vital Communities and the Northern Forest Center are organizing a program similar to Solarize to promote modern wood heat. Bob will keep us informed as it progresses.

Senior and Affordable Housing forum – Thursday 15 Feb 7:00 – 8:30 PM, town hall.

2018 TEC Budget - Li Shen notified Bob that the TEC’s budget has been reduced to \$600 for 2018 due to town-wide budget overruns.

Energy Tip: *Alice will use TSCS promotion.*

Next TEC Meeting Date – Mar. 13th, 5pm, Town Hall