

Thetford Energy Committee Meeting Notes – 3/20/18, 5pm,

Meeting started: 5:15 PM

TEC Members Attending: Alice Stewart, Mary Bryant, Joel Legunn, Erica Ko, Chris Hebb, Mike Kiess

Others: Phebe McCosker, Carole Petrillo

Review and approve minutes from 2/13/18 meeting - unanimously approved.

Town Meeting Table and Resolution Regarding Energy and Climate – Phebe McCosker gave a great explanation of why the energy article was important to the town and state and the town passed the article by a vote of 116 in favor and 1 opposed.

2018 Sustainability Programs – About 60 folks attended the 3/10 showing of “Tomorrow” and community dinner. The movie was followed by a stimulating discussion facilitated by Mary. During dinner, many attendees filled out surveys and participated discussions about the film.

What we think went well, opportunities to improve:

Results based accountability summary from Alice – we could add demographic questions to questionnaires to learn about age and income. Outcomes – almost everyone had heard of renewable goals. Alice will key in all responses and share summary with TEC.

Advertising-

We put in Valley Calendar, and letter to editor. Consider targeting people under 40. Maybe school based. Vital Communities can help with this. Erica wrote to neighboring ECs but did not hear back. Word of mouth seems really important. Offer child care / have something fun for kids. Face painting, bouncy house, etc. Small actions or focused tasks may be easier for people to relate to. Make the kids or elderly parents room more comfortable. Fun – weather stripper skits.

Vermont program is targeted toward lower cost housing and weatherization options.

Heat pump, netzero event – publish questions, then publish answers.

Teasers on listserv – seemed to work well for the well attended nature films.

Maybe local foods event at Elementary school to celebrate their garden.

Thetford Strafford Community Solar – Update from Dori on Mar. 20, 2018:

Hi folks,

Shall I reach out to Barrett Hall to see if it is available for Saturday afternoon? I would be happy to host a wine and cheese "happy hour", say at 4:30 pm 3/31 at Barrett Hall to discuss and learn more about the TSCS opportunity. I know Janet is out of town, and others may be busy as it is Easter weekend, but happy to give it a go regardless. Just let me know.

- Dori

Mike will write to Dori to say we are happy to promote, and to please confirm Barrett Hall. Mike can advertise on list serv. Maybes for attendance – Erica, Chris, Phebe.

Enhanced Energy Planning Update –

Notes from EEP 2018.03.12 meeting

Present: Chris and Kimberly from TRORC, Alice, Phebe and Li.

We reviewed the two new documents from Chris and Kimberly: The answers to our list of question about the Targets & Analysis document and the new edition of the T&A document (responding to our input).

We discussed how the TEC hopes that over time the statistics in the T&A can reflect accurate numbers for the town. We are hoping that over time the various departments in the state will collect information in a way that

can give accurate information that we can use to test where we are in relation to our goal and how effective a particular program has been. For example: if the Dept of Motor Vehicles recorded with each vehicle registration in what town the vehicle “lived,” we would have an accurate count of vehicles by EV, Hybrid, Biodiesel and Gas; or, if Efficiency Vermont tracked things so they could tell us how many homes and businesses in Thetford had lowered their heating load by 25% or 50% through any of their programs.

We had a wide-ranging discussion hunting for ideas for our transportation standards.... Section 7, starting on page 8 of Energy Planning Standards.

- Put charging stations in places where people park for up to 2 hours; i.e., where they do business (Wing’s), where they go for entertainment (TA: plays, films, basketball games), where they go for recreation (Treasure Island). Thetford’s park and ride is not a prime place: only one car will be able to use the spot during the day and/or someone traveling the I-91 corridor will not want to sit at our park and ride for half an hour while their car charges... for them Isabelle’s is a better location.
- Try to get a list of the town’s businesses that have fleets of vehicles: electricians, plumbers, appliance repair folk, etc. Get them information about EV or Biodiesel.
- Zip Cars? Uber? A dispatcher for rides for those no longer driving?
- Look at the town’s fleet of vehicles: police
- *Phebe will contact Chad Martin, Thetford Dept of Public Works, about the town’s use of Biodiesel: how many vehicles currently, how many gallons, who supplies it? How might the town’s use of biodiesel grow?*
- Bike Racks: how to better publicize where they are. Consider recreation sites (Treasure Island, Union Village, trail heads)

Our next meeting of the EEP group is **March 27, 5 to 6:30 in the town hall**. This is the Thetford group meeting to draw up our thoughts for the transportation section which we will then send on the Chris and Kim.

The following meeting is **April 3, 4:30 to 6 in the town hall**. This meeting will be with Chris and Kim and is on Conservation and Energy... Section 6, starting on page 6. Come with all your questions about this section.

Phebe reports draft town plan is under review by Selectboard. Phebe will send recent legal opinion about plan language to subcommittee. Subcommittee discuss issue of plan language choices with Chris Damiani. We recognize that the plan is a fundamental document for policy. Encouraging local business may be a key factor. We should also be sure to talk to Zoning Office. Mike reach out to Mike Pomeroy to find out what he thinks about promoting business in Thetford. Alice will try to decode business list from Chris.

Phebe please communicate with Tracy to address her concerns about Open Meeting law compliance.

Vermont Climate Pledge Coalition – You can join the pledge coalition via the Energy Dashboard www.vtenergydashboard.org/campaigns. See the attached Vermont Climate Action Communities doc sent by Paul Markowitz. We would like to use the targets from our Enhanced Energy Planning, so will explore this coalition in the future.

Future of the TEC – *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. Next steps?**

TEC Website – Alice stopped in and worked with Tracy to make some updates to the TEC website page and found a few things that were not working correctly. Tracy would prefer to add things herself with a TEC person over her shoulder.

Post Mills Landfill PV – Update from Green Mountain Economic Development Corp. – Still trying to set up a site meeting with GMP.

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.

Energy Tip: *Alice please advertise event. April 10th, 6 PM at Thetford Academy.*

Next TEC Meeting Date – April 17th, 5pm, Town Hall (Bob might not be able to make it)