

Minutes of Enhanced Energy Planning Subcommittee meeting
03 April 2018 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Attending:

Phebe McCosker, Li Shen, Alice Stewart, Chris Damiani, Kimberly Gilbert, Mike Kiess

Resignations: Sue Fritz and Mary Bryant have both notified us that other commitments are standing in the way of their continuing with this project.

Projected future meetings, all 4:30 to 6:00 at Thetford Town Hall
Conservation and Efficiency – Premeeting 11 April, TRORC meeting 1 May
Mapping 1 - Premeeting May 22, TRORC June 5
Mapping 2 – Premeeting June 18, TRORC July 3
Review – Premeeting July 24, TRORC Aug 7

Phebe will set up meeting times and post minutes and agendas.

We reviewed with TRORC our work on the transportation section of the plan.

Our committee had sent them our work on transportation, they organized our work for the document and brought it back to us with their questions and for our feedback.

Location of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations– we want to place charging stations so people can do activities while their car is charging.

Look at how to support more efficient fleets for town businesses – An action for the Energy Committee to engage with businesses and help them evaluate options.

Town park and rides –We raised the question of how travel patterns in town might influence where we locate park and rides. This will be a future topic for the TEC to examine and engage.

Chris will examine alternate / additional energy supplies for police fleet. There are battery options for police fleets that allow the vehicle to be off while the battery powers all radio and other components that need to be powered.

Bike parking – assign to recreation advisory committee to explore how placement of bike racks might encourage more biking in town.

Town Driver – start by assigning TEC to convene TEN and other regional actors / stakeholders that represent different groups in town that might have interest in or thoughts on how a town driver might impact miles driven.

Shall versus Should language – We briefly reviewed that there are different language standards for plans that are aspirational and for guidance versus plans that are policy. We expect to recommend policy type language for weatherization since technology is stable and obstacles are social. Shall comes into place with land usage regulations.

Road shoulders – Town should lobby state for wider shoulders on roads, especially in village centers, to support safer biking and walking.

Transportation Patterns – TEC should engage with Vital Communities, TRORC Transportation Ctee, and utilize data from GoVT program.

We then reviewed with TRORC our “homework” assignment for our next meeting. We will be covering Conservation and Efficiency (standard 6), 6A - 6E in the Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans.

This looks at homes and business consumption, primarily heating.

Phebe raised the concern – may need more than 25% improvement to be “weatherized” to meet our targets. May need more than 18% of businesses to weatherize to sufficiently reduce consumption. The standards could be clearer on how the combination of wood heat and heat pumps are coded in the plan.

We noted that home sharing, higher density and mixed-use zoning are ways for more efficient living. We considered zoning that helps aging people stay in town and supports workers living in town.

FEMA recovery elements for healthy community – Mike summarize

We will talk to developers and builders in town for their thoughts on these issues.

Vermont Efficiency Building Standards – Incentives for efficiency, Awareness, Escrow/Deposit for efficiency certification, ideas from Mary Ellen Parkman.

Phebe talk to Paul McGovern about developing and building efficient homes.

Mike talk to Kevin O’Hara about developing and building efficient homes.

Big users - TA, Long Wind Farms, stores, Pompanoosuc Mills

Chris advises to keep engaging with people in town for ideas. It will help us build a stronger plan and hopefully reduce resistance.