

**Enhanced Energy Plan Minutes**  
**April 11, 2018**  
**4:30-6:00 Thetford Town Hall**

Present: Phebe, Li, Alice, Mike

Below are our upcoming meeting dates. The first date, in parentheses, is our meeting on the topic. The second date is our meeting with TRORC. They review our work, ask us for points of clarification, and introduce us to the upcoming topic.

3. Conservation and Energy – (April 11) May 1
4. Mapping 1 – (May 22) June 5
5. Mapping 2 – (June 18) July 3
6. Review – (July 24) Aug 7

We collected ideas for each of the sections on Conservation and Energy

6A. Promoting conservation.

Thetford has an Energy Committee. We will review the work it has been doing in education and events that promote energy efficiency, weatherizing of homes and renewable energy. We will note that TEC regularly promotes Efficiency VT and its programs.

6B. Promoting efficient buildings.

1) Vermont Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES): We want to encourage builders to turn in the certificates stating that they have built the project to RBES. We recommend a refundable fee with the building permit that gets returned when the RBES certificate is filed. We recommend that the RBES certificate refundable fee be about \$500.

Is the RBES tied to the title? Should it be? **Phebe** will ask Mary Ellen Parkman, zoning administrator. The TEC and the zoning administrator should develop a recommendation for the select board.

2) Promote education for homebuyers and homebuilders.

Resale value of home with certificate of compliance with RBES.

Affordable loans for energy efficient building – homes and additions

VSECU a leader in financing for energy improvements and construction.

Work to educate real estate agents.

Identify servicers of heating systems who are knowledgeable about the new technologies.

3) State programs for low-income homeowners to weatherize are not adequate. TEC should advocate for creative solutions for statewide infrastructure (policy, process, admin mechanism) to support towns to expand weatherization programs.

4) Training for LOCAL fixer upper carpenters - increase skill sets to do good cost effective projects in homes. Think COVER home repair. Work with labor force to help homeowners weatherize incrementally.

**Phebe** will talk with Mary Ellen about her knowledge of stretch codes. Are other towns using them?

**Phebe** will talk with her friend who worked at COVER.

#### 6C Decrease fossil fuel for heating.

- 1) If town gets to the threshold of municipal water and sewer in any village, town should encourage developer to consider shared hot water/ heat generation.
- 2) Education on targeting transition points – when systems need replacement, when occupants are aging, switch to heat pumps, efficient wood.
- 3) TEC work with retailers of heating systems and services to add alternative heating sources to their mix.

#### 6D Municipal leadership

- 1) TEC has done the audits of town buildings – **Phebe** to get details from **Chris Hebb/Bob Walker**. Town Hall, Rices Mills Community Building, Thetford Center Community Building improvements are slowly being done. Review previous audits and ID further work.
- 2) TES – where is it in weatherization?
- 3) Town is an off taker in the community array in Post Mills. TES has an array (**size?**).
- 4) DPW needs bigger site. DPW is clear that it wants the building to be efficient and to be oriented for solar.