

**Thetford Energy Committee Meeting Approved Minutes – Sept 11, 2018, 5pm, Town Hall**

**TEC Present: Manohar Grewal, Chris Hebb, Joel Legunn, Alice Stewart, Mary Bryant, Bob Walker**

**Guests Present:** Phebe McCosker

**Called to order - 6:15 PM (after 5 PM Thetford Strafford Community Array ribbon cutting)**

**Thetford/Strafford Community Solar TSCS Ribbon Cutting 5-6 PM at site near Post Mills landfill, or TCCC if inclement weather.**

**Proposed Additional Topics:** Renewable Energy VT conference, Oct 18th and 19th. Maybe Manny can go, will check in with Bob.

**Review and approve minutes from July 10 and Aug 2, 2018 meetings – unanimously approved (MIKE attach)**

Suggestion - add times to our agenda for meeting management

**Future of the TEC –** (MIKE google drive links and attach summary and resources from Erica) Google Drive works for sharing, in addition to attachments and printed copies. All public documents (agendas and minutes) will be on town website to comply with open meeting law.

- look at the project ideas that the Enhanced Energy Planning work has imagined (PHEBE & ALICE)  
Transportation:

EV charging stations at businesses. Maybe East Thetford or Thetford Center.

Park and Ride at Thetford Academy

Municipal electric transit vanpools - Rte 5, 113, 132 to Norwich/Hanover/WRJ hub, for rush hour & individuals off peak.

Park and rides with bike and people shelters with solar on top

Electric school buses

Town drivers

Community car share or truck share

Energy Efficiency:

Local Goods and Services Directory

Tool+ library

Energy Generation:

Post Mills Landfill Solar with battery storage and micro-grid

TA Solar, possibly on gym roof

Housing:

Low income housing weatherization toward 25% more efficiency.

Advocate for low income weatherization funding

Co-housing, shared housing

Designated net-zero housing zone close to park and ride

Farming area & winter greenhouse

Some low income & senior housing

Annual TEC energy fair hootenany to keep town informed

For next meeting - ALL look at EEP projects, look at this list of projects. We will sort into long term and near term.

- agree on project scoring to prioritize projects (MIKE - SCORE SHEETS)

Tim Briglin's idea: Achievability, energy and resources required, impact it would have.

Need to add criteria - Time, Energy, Money required.

- agree how we would like to do action planning for our top priority projects (MIKE - PLANNING SHEETS)

Communication to town about what we have decided / are planning (MIKE)

### **Enhanced Energy Planning Update – Phebe and Alice**

Enhanced Energy Planning Sub-Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2018

4:45 to 6:15 Thetford Town Hall

Present: Phebe McCosker, Alice Stewart, Sue Fritz

Since our last meeting Alice had a meeting with TRORC where she reviewed with them the list of questions we had prepared. Based on the TRORC responses we made a series of changes to our recommendations for preferred, constrained and prohibited siting for renewable energy. We have two remaining minor questions left. Alice will review these questions with TRORC and make the necessary changes to the recommendations before turning them in to TRORC. Alice will ask TRORC if they will be doing a double check on the text of the Energy Chapter now that the Thetford Planning Commission has made adjustments to the Thetford Town Plan.

Next steps: When we receive back from TRORC the Energy Chapter and the Mapping work, we will review it and send it on to the Planning Commission. We will ask the Planning Commission to review the work and meet with us to talk about concerns they might have with the draft.

### **Thetford 2050 Upcoming Events -**

#### **Report on COVER conversation, and next steps - Mary and Bob**

From Mary - Cover does weatherization for low income homes in addition to home repair and has a van, tools, paid and volunteer staff, and a blower door for diagnostics. TEC has a pool of trained volunteers and ability to organize local weatherization workshops and find low income homes who may qualify for their services. Our first meeting showed the strength of both organizations to assist in local weatherization programs and we will have meeting that will include Cover's Home Repair Director in addition to Jay Mead Crew Leader for Cover Weatherization. Jay interested in serving more clients in the Thetford area. One to two events could happen this fall. We will also investigate work with Capstone.

From Bob - Related to the idea of us working with COVER and/or Capstone to revive our Volunteer Assisted Weatherization (VAW) program, I talked yesterday with Paul Zabriskie, director of Capstone's low income weatherization program, to see what he thought about a collaborative effort with our VAW program. I started by asking him what was Capstone's biggest impediment to getting more low income weatherization jobs done and he said funding. I went on to describe how our program had brought in funding and volunteers to help do jobs and wondered if there might be a way to work together to get more jobs done in Thetford. We discussed the barriers we had faced and possible solutions:

- proper channeling/raising of funds - either donations directly to the town for the effort, or through OCT with money coming in a chunk as a grant to the town, as opposed to OCT paying out as bills were submitted
- liability of/insurance for volunteers - possible coverage by town if volunteers no longer did the potential dangerous things or possibly through Capstone

- identifying low income candidates - Capstone already has a policy in place telling homeowners who receive Low Income fuel assistance that by accepting the fuel assistance they are agreeing to an audit and weatherization measures, so Capstone can identify and approach candidates.

Paul said he thought it might be possible to design a collaborative program that addressed these issues and allow us to combine resources to get more low income weatherization jobs done in town, but more discussion and figuring and working with the select board to make sure they were comfortable and in agreement with things would have to take place.

A couple of things that working with Capstone brings to the program:

- they can help identify and approach potential candidates
- they do deeper weatherization work than COVER - they do full air sealing and insulation throughout the house, where COVER's work is usually limited to simple air sealing around windows, doors and occasionally rim joist and attic hatch.
- I suspect they may have more money to devote to each home, combined with the funding we might raise
- they are one of several Community Action Program agencies that work across the state, so if we were able to establish a model with them, it might be replicable statewide

We may be able to earmark funds for Thetford jobs.  
LIHEAP list participants agree to be weatherized.

A drawback from the way our original program worked is that because they provide low income weatherization services, jobs they do do NOT qualify for Efficiency Vermont incentives, that could go toward our next jobs - but Capstone does bring money to each job from their funding.

I don't think this has to be an either/or situation between working with COVER or Capstone, but think we should consider both options if the TEC supports going forward with trying to revive this program.

ALL - If you have questions, please pass to Mary and Bob.

ALL - We will decide if this is a priority in our strategic project analysis.

### **Report on Electric vehicle event (Sun Sept 30) - Mary**

Have a draft flyer for the E.V. event - people took them to post.

Joel, Chris, Manny can help with lunch on site. Mary will arrange food order.

Joel will call about plates for event. Roxanna and Logan Paige from community center. Mike for North Thetford church if TCCC cannot do it.

Bob will send Henri Fennell contact to Mary for his Tesla.

### **Report on Local food event (Oct 20) - Erica**

LOCAL FOODS DINNER: Bringing Together Hunters, Farmers, Omnivores & Vegans

October 20th at Thetford Academy Martha Rich Theatre & Cafeteria

Presentation 5pm-6pm, Dinner & Discussion 6pm-8pm

Bringing together a diverse group of people in the spectrum of eating from hunters to farmers to vegans, we invite all to discuss what we eat, what impact that has on the environment, and what our shared values are. We also plan to discuss how eating local supports our community and our economy. A dinner and discussion featuring local game and dishes featuring food from local farms will follow the presentations. Free and open to all.

Speakers: Tovar Cerulli, Shane Rogers, Upper Valley Fish & Wildlife Club (to be confirmed), Vital Communities (to be confirmed)

Alice will write to Erica to propose a

Tovar is author of *The Mindful Carnivore*, which has earned praise from hunters, ecologists, and vegetarians alike. Focused on bridging diverse views and values, he serves as a thought partner for conservation leaders

and teams across sectors. Tovar's writing has appeared in *Outdoor America*, *High Country News*, *The Atlantic*, and *Petersen's Hunting*, among other publications. He is a hunter-education instructor and holds a PhD in communication from UMass-Amherst.

Shane Rogers is a Project Manager with Rooted in Vermont, which is a grassroots movement changing the way Vermonters think and talk about local food by celebrating all the unique ways we eat local – from hunting and fishing to foraging to backyard gardens to picking up your favorite products at a grocery store or local farmers market.

Update:

I had a good meeting with the Fish & Game Club a couple months ago and they expressed a lot of interest in participating in the event. I'm still working on reaching out to Vital Communities (just received a contact from Mike), but also wonder if that might be too many speakers. Help soliciting dishes to share made with local ingredients would be much appreciated. I am reaching out to farms, but getting contributions from community members will be essential. I hope to get at least 12-15 contribution of dishes.

### **Post Mills Landfill Solar - Bob**

Municipal Community Solar Micro Grid Project – Work with Green Mountain Community Economic Development Corp. and GMP to develop the largest solar field as possible to fit on the closed Post Mills landfill. Have the power go to the Town of Thetford, Thetford schools, businesses and residents. Incorporate battery storage into the program. Can this be set up so the town, residents and businesses benefit financially and it increases the local reliability in the face of blackouts or emergencies? Could the town finance this with low rate municipal borrowing that is more than offset by energy cost savings to users?

**2019 Budget** – we will use output of strategic planning to develop 2019 and beyond budget  
2018 balance – town \$ expires 2018, special reserve \$456 rolls over

### **2018 Sustainability Programs –**

**2018 Button UP Vermont Campaign** – TEC is signed up with Efficiency VT for Button Up 2018. Described our idea to conduct DIY workshops and create a roster of volunteer helpers.

### **Two Rivers Action Coalition, Tii Mclane:**

“I am hoping to touch base with ECs in the towns that Two Rivers Action Coalition work in/with.... to see how we might be able to collaborate. Do you now about TRAC?... we hope to promote carbon management strategies at the legislative level, primarily. Sometimes it seems there could be overlap between our missions and possible actions we could help each other with?”

Mike invited her to share more info so we could consider possible presentation at a future TEC meeting.

**Energy Tip:** Foam Gaskets. *Alice and Mike will work on instructions and Food Shelf distribution.*

**Next TEC Meeting Date** – Oct 9th, 2018