

Thetford Planning Commission

Public Comments, Energy Open House

May 1, 2012

NAME	Comment	Response
David Fisk, via email to the EC	Require towers to carry photo-voltaics (or put them underground)	
David Fisk	Assess streams for micro-hydro and guide people through the process	
Manny Grewal	Share solar panel station among neighbors; “group net metering”; (see publication from VNRC)	
Bob Walker	An evaluation was done by Lori Barg (Community Hydro) of major streams in Thetford; legislature has bill to help process;	
Phebe McCosker	How do you oversee/influence development for energy efficiency? How do you make that happen? How do St of Vt regulations get enforced? Do we have houses built that don't meet energy codes?	Kevin O'Hara: probably some still don't meet code, no enforcement; no Cert of Occupancy; contractor attests to compliance; deterrent is in future complications
Phebe McCosker	At building permit stage, can we influence?	Bob Walker: Zoning Administrator provides information from Energy Committee
Stuart Blood	How to influence? resistance to regs on single family dwellings; sub-division, more influence (Act 250 review requires conformance w/Town Plan). Town Plan can require conformance with “shall” statements; “should” statements carry less weight. If Plan doesn't support “shall”s but wants protection, can specify requirements that bear on Act 250 requirements (would exclude single family dwellings).	
Stuart Blood	In Two Rivers regional commission draft of energy chapter, has such language for energy generating (Section 248). (Note that recommendations should be reviewed and carried into recommendations section, out of the narrative.)	
Michael Kiess	Want people to be rewarded by following good practice – lower costs, higher sales. Provide information on implications (economic and social rewards) of smart energy decisions. Encourage compliance, even in can't enforce.	
Phebe McCosker	Film on effects of Irene focused on mobile home parks, allowed by State on flood plain where can't build houses; affordable, and least able to afford the rebuilding. COVER is doing replacement “Irene houses”, more costly, more efficient, than mobile homes.	
Michael Kiess	Assumes that mobile home is less efficient, will have high energy costs;	
Manny Grewal	Solar panels on top of car park, facility rented from energy company. (Like communal energy use of towers.)	

Bob Walker	Revolving loan fund could bump people up to Energy Star levels, be paid back over time.	
Stuart Blood	Has comments on draft authored by Chris Sargent (of Two Rivers regional commission). Will give to Michael. Need concrete guidance, not (only) high-minded language. Needed to provide more guidance to Zoning. Now, tied to RBES.	
Manny Grewal	New solar generating technology, small scale or substation; developed through space exploration technology, in reverse. Already in use by Fedex, others.	
Michael Keiss (reiterating Tig Tillinghast)	Connecting trail networks would reduce need to drive to hike or ski.	
Bob Walker	From Efficiency Vt conference, some kind of deal State made that will mean more oversight on building to standard.	Michael Schunk: will require enforcement; by attestation, but contractor can be sued, if false statement.
Michael Schunk	Land trust has money to build houses, subsidized; sell to low income families. Grant covers disparity.	
Bob Walker	Team of super volunteers to do weatherization for those who need it; prevented because of liability concerns. Can Town Plan address? (precedent from the Community Center volunteer work)	Stuart Blood: town would have to indemnify, cover under insurance;
Phebe McCosker	Cost of oil will squeeze out some residents – we need to be creative to think about how to help.	Michael Schunk: the way that PACE works is pretty creative; funds tied in w/tax and goes w/house when sold.
Keving O'Hara	tie home heating program subsidies to apply to weatherization? (is both State and federal funding here)	
Michael S, Manny, Bob	Group generation: could that be a fund-raiser, as well as energy saver? See big municipal generation source.	
Michael Kiess	ET has own water company; could it be used to generate power? We should use municipal water as model for municipal power.	
Bob Walker	Strafford looking at solar farm on the mine. Some of the tailing flats are in Thetford. Is long distance to run lines to site. Thayer student has studied, would need more work, seems feasible, has been done on caps.	
Michael Schunk	Heating districts: villages could be catalyst, on T Hill, w/ schools, etc., could work, although not dense. Would encourage growth around villages. Look at it for each village.	
Michael Kiess	TA, TES: a town building? Available for solar?	
Bob Walker	Life cycle cost should be a factor in purchase of capital equipment by Town. Should apply to facilities, vehicles.	
Bob Walker	Norwich tree warden stockpiles wood; once a year, cut it and give away. Could tie to weatherization. (Need to review liability.)	
Manny Grewal	Fee for audit is high; Town could cover for those who can't afford it.	Phebe McCosker: can be reimbursed via PACE.

