

## Thetford Energy Committee 11/11/14 Draft Minutes

Meeting started: 5:05pm

**TEC Attendees:** Alice Stewart, Chris Hebb , Bob Walker, and Manny Grewal, Ellen Blumberg

**Others:** Phebe McCosker

**Review and approve minutes from 10/14/14 meeting** - Unanimously accepted as written.

**Review Draft 2015 TEC Budget** – Budget approved by committee. *Bob will forward to SB.* –

**Review 2014 Budget** - Ellen encouraged all planning to attend the 12/6 VECAN conference to submit invoices for their admission to her as soon as possible. If she get them by this weekend, she will submit to treasurer before she leaves town for Alaska. Otherwise, it will have to wait till she returns after Thanksgiving. Other bills due and use of remaining TEC budget: Joel's \$30 REV admissions and case of foam and caulk for VAW work next year (*Bob will purchase from EFI*). TEC decided to approve Joel's request for reimbursement of his \$60 + tax motel stay for the 2-day REV conference in Burlington. We decided to support the request because covering travel had he driven home and back would have cost more than the motel.. *Ellen will forward Joel's invoice to Jill.*

**United Church of Thetford Hosted Group Net Metered Array** – Update from Mike. As the church is a public building, the VT fire marshal's office has been involved in the design and the layout of the array has been adjusted somewhat. National Electric Code and fire safety regulations have been evolving during 2014 for rooftop arrays. The final design had been submitted as part of our CPG application, so we are hoping that approval and weather will allow installation before the end of the year. I have not contacted other groups yet about their ownership models.

**Volunteer Assisted Weatherization Project** – MOU signed by OCT, SB & TEC. Discuss 2015 VAW project. 13 volunteers completed 5 removable interior storm windows that were installed in Lorraine Carbino's home on 11/1/14. Bob finished the final storm window covering at Lorraine's on 11/8. All work is now complete on her house. *Bob will send a report to the Thetford list serve summarizing VAW project, including thanks to window volunteers and Bob Bacon from Window Improvement Masters who contributed materials for the windows and Foggs who provided a discount on materials for the windows. Bob will present results of 2014 VAW project at VECAN conference workshop with Tim McCosker presenting on Habitat for Humanity and Rob Schultz presenting on COVER VAW efforts. Bob will send Kim photos and story of the window workshop to post. Announce workshop with link to making windows and contact Bob.*

**PACE Forum** – Phebe and Bob attended a training session for UV ECs on PACE Mon. 11/3, 6:30-8:30pm, Basement of Tracy Hall in Norwich. Attendees provided good feedback for SERG and the PACE organizers on improving the education and outreach plans and materials to focus primarily on some of the improvements to the PACE program, particularly the 0% to 1.99% financing rate for low and moderate income Vermonters, free project analysis by Efficiency Vermont to determine if it will be cost-effective and improved participation process. Norwich (12/9 at Montshire) and Hartland (12/10 at Hartland Library) have scheduled public forums on PACE. The remaining 4-5, including Thetford's, will take place after the New Year, but by end of March. Phebe suggested having contractors trained to assist homeowners in the whole PACE process. Contractor would provide the analysis - cost, savings, and fill out the PACE application on site. EVT says one of the primary barriers to weatherization is preparing the home (cleaning the attic or basement to allow for weatherization). We discussed inviting TA environmental club to help provide that service if needed by Thetford residents who want to weatherize. *Alice will check to see if the environmental club still exists. Phebe will put together a description of what we would want them to do if so.* We decided to hold our PACE forum on 1/20/15. Alice suggested having

home owners who have gone through any of the energy improvement programs there, describing positive experiences. Bob will check with Lois Paige to see if the TCCC is available for Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> and will invite contractors to be in audience, bring fliers, answer questions and talk with attendees. We will discuss at next meeting the possibility of having food at the forum.

**Residential Solar, Air Source Heat Pump and Efficiency Forums** – We discussed timing and subjects for our winter series. VLS Energy Clinic has offered to present on community solar if we give them a date. Mike suggested that the hall at the North Thetford church may be a good meeting place option for anything that needs space. It can hold up to 150 people and has a full scale kitchen and access for folks with limited mobility. We will plan next meeting a series of forums every other week after the PACE forum, focusing on heat pumps, wood pellets heaters, community GNM solar.

#### **Community Solar Updates and Discussion –**

Update from Bob and VLS Energy Clinic on Post Mills project.

Bob spent a lot of time over a couple of weeks mediating between Solaflect and Duncan Nichols re a community GNM array Solaflect wants to install (they hope by end of this year) in a field bought from Duncan's sister on Thetford Hill, behind the fire station and across from Duncan's property. Duncan believes his father (Bob Nichols) had hoped the field would be used for agriculture, and wants Solaflect to move the proposed array out of the field and into woods on the property that would have to be cleared. Discussion between Solaflect and Duncan may be on-going or might have hit an impasse. Solarflect has offered to send someone to one of our meetings to explain their project and see support in recruiting members from Thetford at an upcoming meeting. Manny said he talked with Brian Boland and he seems to not be interested at this point in going forward with a community solar project on his land across from the airport.

**REV Conference** – Joel, Phebe and Bob attended the 10/16 & 17 conference. TEC need will reimburse Joel & Phebe \$30. Joel also asked Ellen if he could get reimbursed for his over-night motel stay for the 2-day conference. The committee decided to reimburse Joel for the motel as that cost was less than mileage for 2 trips would have been.

**VECAN Conference 2014** – Saturday Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Lake Morey Inn.

[http://www.vecan.net/ai1ec\\_event/vecan-conference/?instance\\_id=220843](http://www.vecan.net/ai1ec_event/vecan-conference/?instance_id=220843) has some info. Registration should be open now. Please make reservations and send invoices to Ellen ASAP. She needs to get invoices by this weekend in order to forward to Jill before she goes to Alaska. Otherwise, she will do so when she returns after Thanksgiving.

**Energy Tip** –

**Next TEC Meeting Date** – Tues Dec. 16, 5:00 PM, at town hall.