

Thetford Energy Committee 2/4/14 Minutes

Meeting started 5:05 PM

TEC Attendees: Bob Walker, Mike Kiess, Joel Legunn, Ellen Blumberg, Manohar Grewal

Others: Paul Gerke, Phebe McCosker,

Review and approve minutes from 1/14/14 meeting – Minutes unanimously approved.

Town Garage Weatherization – Bob installed weatherstrip. **Mike will follow up on review of report from Radiant and seek answer to the questions we raised by TEC in Nov 2013 for March meeting.**

Transportation Projects – **Mike will report for Ross McDonald at VEIC to get \$500 reward for the bike park & ride areas and bike racks for March meeting.**

Town Hall Retrofit Questions from SB – SB would like Chris to review fluorescent ballasts to see if they need to be upgraded and help with reviewing contractor proposals and giving tours to perspective bidders. Nothing heard from SB on rest of TEC recommendations yet . **Bob will follow up.**

Low Income Weatherization Project – The selectboard approved the final agreement with the participating homeowners. Bob has not yet connected with the resident on Rt. 132 who is our likely participant. Target is to complete the job by May 2014 in order to report to our funders. **Bob will follow up.**

Vermont Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence – TEC suggests SERG should apply.

Mike Kiess Deep Energy Retrofit/EVT Zero Energy Retrofit Program – Mike's home is going to go through a deep energy retrofit over next year. Efficiency Vermont has begun a program supporting Zero Energy retrofits. This might be a good opportunity to educate the community about deep energy retrofit possibilities. **Mike is interested and will follow up directly with Li.**

"Powering a Bright Future" Class – Linda Gray of the NEC asked if TEC would like to co-sponsor the 2-part discussion program called [Powering A Bright Future](#), on the big picture of energy, and actions we can take as individuals and communities to enact sustainable use of energy. It has solution-based readings on energy use and extraction, peak oil, fossil fuel subsidies, energy efficiency, equity, energy policy and low carbon food tips. Discussion sessions are about 1.5 hours for groups of 8-12 people, with about 16 pages prior to each of two discussion sessions. Barbara Duncan, from Catamount Earth Institute would lead the discussions. Linda Gray talked with Barbara about scheduling the sessions for 2 Sunday afternoons (perhaps 3/30 and 4/6) and seeing if we could use either the Thetford Hill library or the church. This could help set the context for folks on the weatherization and solar work that both committees are doing.

TEC does want to co-sponsor. **Phebe will contact Linda Gray and attend on our behalf. TEC will pay for her enrollment fee.**

TEC Website Upgrades – TEC reviewed the site and suggested that we could *remove challenge* to a completed project and try to find more pictures to add of bike racks, bike parking signs, Thetford HEAT, especially with people. See website at: <http://www.thetfordvermont.us/departments/energy-committee/>

Energy Tip – **Alice will check to see when we last did a tip on LEDs.**

Warmth in Winter Movies/Solarize – About 14 folks attended 'Power Surge' film on 1/26. We discussed the March 9 kick off for Solarize project and thought we should start with showing of 'Solar Energy - Saved by the Sun'. TEC needs to estimate number of PV installations currently in town to form a baseline so we have an idea of how much we increased installations at the end of the project. **TEC suggests coordinate kick-off with all 5 towns participating in Solarize for maximum impact. We can provide pictures from Thetford / Strafford. Mike will write back to Sarah Simonds.** We suggest having the selected contractor at the 3/9 kickoff with panels for photo. Open with the movie as 101 intro. Continue with brief (25 min. max) focused presentations on Solarize by Thetford and/or Strafford organizers and installer, (not on historic accomplishments of TEC or VC), talk about financing (prepare financing handout with institutions, ways to finance including PACE, available incentives, etc.), payback, technical how it works, net metering. Follow with Q&A and then visits and individual discussions by those attending to educational/informational tables. **Ask VC to make a Solarize S/T banner for use by both towns, to be ready by town meeting. TEC is encourage to check out the www.Vitalcommunities.org/solarize website for the latest on the project.**

Town meeting table (Sat March 1st) –

Include Solarize banner, signup sheet, posters about the 3/2 launch, basic info about Solarize

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Next TEC Meeting Date –

Solarize subcommittee Feb 20th 5:00 PM, at town hall.

TEC - March 4, 2014. 5:00 – 7:00 PM in the vault, but need to be out by 7pm latest as it is voting day.