

Thetford Energy Committee 4/8/14 Draft Minutes

Meeting started: 5:10 PM

TEC Attendees: Bob Walker, Chris Hebb, Alice Stewart, Mike Kiess, Joel Legunn
Others: Phebe McCosker

Review and approve minutes from 3/4/14 meeting – need to do at next meeting as we did not initially have a quorum

Community Solar Grant - Deadline is May 9th. Bob forwarding again, but probably too short of a time frame for TEC to lead application. TES may be applying.

Home Energy Challenge Update/Celebration – Thetford is eligible for \$500 grant from Efficiency Vermont to be spent on a town weatherization project by virtue of collecting the highest number of Pledges during the Vermont Home Energy Challenge. We need to “apply” to EVT for the funds though simple letter making sure the project we want to support is eligible. Bob will ask Paul Markowitz how long money will be available. We agreed that the next round of our Volunteer-Assisted Weatherization (VAW) project is the best use.

Volunteer Assisted Weatherization Project – Two candidates expressed interest in the program – Brent Mellen did audits on both houses, with help from Bob. The home in Post Mills seems to need mostly coaching. The project in Thetford Center is a good match for making improvements with some labor that could be done well by volunteers. Bob sending Scope of Work for each project. Mike offered to coordinate volunteer efforts. Bob estimated that net cost of the project would be around \$1100. The work day on the Thetford Center home has been scheduled for May 26th.

GoVermont – Thetford is eligible for a \$500 grant available for promoting GoVermont programs. Mike will write a letter to Ross MacDonald to let him know we have not forgotten, and will do some more promotion before we submit our request for the money. Mike will draft information about some of GoVermont’s programs for use on the town list serve and newsletter. Once those go out, Mike will write letter to GoVermont, informing them of our bike racks, bike and ride lots and GoVermont promos and seek the grant money.

“Powering a Bright Future” Class – Phebe updated. Attendance was slim, but a good reminder that fossil fuels are going away, and each of us need to get busy on reducing consumption and developing alternatives.

Energy Tip – Mike will provide draft to Alice about ride sharing and GoVermont resources.

Solarize Thetford-Stafford – update on #s and next plans to promote:
What’s next after launch event?

- Alice will follow up with Beth McGee about doing a Solarize art project with TES. Part of the program should inform parents about the effort. Judging of drawings could be done online via listserv link to TEC page of town or TES website and at solar open house where winner would be announced.
- Bob contacted Bill and Betsy Peabody from Thetford Hill, who have an array installed by Catamount last year, about hosting a solar tour / open house with refreshments. The Peabody’s expressed willingness to have folks look at it when they return to town in May.

Their solar panels and meter are on the garage, so easy to see from outside the house. **Bob will contact the Peabody's to arrange.**

- We discussed other educational outreach ideas including: possibly library based after school table, Saturday morning, at recycling, or at Thetford Community Center (stop by to or from recycling), person dressed in a solar panel costume drawing attention to table, Solar BBQs at install completions.
- **Mike will contact Catamount about getting clearer explanation on a %ROI from installing solar.**

Next TEC Meeting Date – April 8, 5:00 PM, at town hall.