

## **Thetford Energy Committee 6/10/14 Minutes**

Meeting started: 5:07pm

**TEC Attendees:** Manny Grewal, Joel Legunn, Bob Walker

**Others:** Phebe McCosker, Stuart Blood

**Review and approve minutes from 5/13/14 meeting** – no quorum – moved to next meeting.

**Community Solar Grant Update** – Bob talked with Andy Perchlik at the Clean Energy Development Fund who reported that TES received its full grant request of \$125,000 (the highest award in the state) and North Thetford Church was awarded \$18,750 - not its full request, but he hopes it will be enough to allow the project to go forward.

**Town Hall Weatherization and Challenge Grant Update** – Donn Downey, Brent Mellen and Bob reviewed the town hall audit report. Donn reported that the town had set aside \$7,000 for weatherization upgrades for this year and I mentioned that we had \$500 that could be directed toward the job from the Challenge grant. Brent checked out the various areas addressed in the report and recommended the following be completed this year: finish basement vapor barrier, spray foam and insulation (\$3,050), air seal and a little insulation work in the addition attic (\$4,150), insulate and air seal box sills in food pantry (\$710). Total = \$7,910. Anticipated Efficiency Vermont incentive (if 10% air leakage is achieved) \$800 +/- . Bob filled out the application for the \$500 award and sent to Donn.

### **Volunteer Assisted Weatherization Project –**

Results from the Carbino job:

Grants from the Vermont Community Foundation and Ben and Jerry's Foundation, totaled \$2,770. Efficiency Vermont paid \$970 in incentives, so the net cost of the job is \$1,800. (there are about \$100 in trash hauling and interior storm window expenses remaining to be paid).

The audit test-out report determined that air leakage in the house was reduced by just over 10% and energy use will be reduced by more than 21%, saving Lorraine an estimated \$488.50 on her fuel bills annually. So energy savings will pay for the cost of improvements in less than four years and the house will be much more comfortable. In addition, the reduced fuel use will cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by an estimated 2,800 lbs. per year.

Bob surveyed participants (5 replied). All thought the project ran well and was worthy of repeating. There is a lot of volunteer time in these jobs. Bob recommends doing 2 a year – one in the summer and one in the winter. Discuss if rest of TEC agree and seeking additional grant money for more jobs.

We propose raising \$5,000 more for 2 jobs. Manny will check the Trust to see if they can raise money from Thetford donors for this initiative.

### **Solarize Thetford-Strafford – updates:**

- Peabody Happy Hour was well attended – about 30 folks. Thanks Phebe and Manny for help setting up.
- 17 signed contracts for 84.3kW, 6 more awaiting signing (for a total of 121kW - just into Tier 4)
- About 10 installs are done or close to it, a few more will be done in next couple of weeks
- Still about 40 households Catamount is in various stages of the process with
- So far about 15 definite 'no' responses - a few going with other installers but most are budget/priority issues
- Discussed ways to help customers in future rounds understand costs (5kW system provides XkWh, a monthly bill of approx. \$X)

- Discussed how Catamount is prepared for influx of contracts as deadline approaches
- Bob will send out reminder that June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline is nearing and contact those who have Solarized to ask if we can use their names to promote the effort.

### **Post Solarize Residential Solar Efforts**

- Sun Common wants to meet with TEC in July – they just opened an office in WRJ
- TEC would like to hold an open solar forum inviting numerous contractors in the fall

**Community Solar Discussion** – We reviewed reports Phebe, Bob and others who have been looking into this issue and discussed next steps. We think we could use some help from someone with better understanding of the options to explain them to us so we can decide what direction we want to go. Bob will check with Andy Perchlik, Joey Miller, and Jamie Irvin re coming to talk with us and explain options at next meeting 7/15. If none feel qualified or can't do, we could also offer to hire Dori Wolfe to come explain the options. New England Grassroots Environment Fund has Seed Grants that could be used for this. We also need an engineer to figure out if landfill is a viable site. Bob will check with Donn and Stuart on these.

### **Energy Tip –**

Next TEC Meeting Date – July 15, 5:00 PM, at town hall.