

Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee
Draft Notes
July 14, 2008 Meeting
Rich Phillips

Attending: Rich Aiken, John Morris, Lawrence Black, Dan Chodorkoff, Anne Miller, Rich Phillips, Saul Gresser

Convene: 7:00 PM

Adjourn: 8:45 PM

Business:

- 1) Anne presented the proposed content of the town energy website which she and Saul developed:
 - a. Weatherization
 - b. Committee News---events, pertinent current information, requests for input etc.
 - c. List of solar and weatherization contractors
 - d. List of homeowners with alternative energy and other energy projects willing to provide tours and information
 - e. Various links to energy and alternative energy information on the web
 - f. Financial calculators and Energy Calculator links
 - g. Rebates and incentive links
 - h. General energy interest links
 - i. Filling out an energy survey on line

The committee agreed with the proposed content. Anne and Saul will continue pulling this together and John Morris will work on actually constructing the site. Although not discussed, Committee members will probably have to operate/maintain the site because Bobbi has pretty severe time limitations.

- 2) John Morris agreed to call the residents who sought additional information at the time of the survey to determine whether they got the information elsewhere or still have specific requests. John will compile the requests and for discussion at our regular August meeting when we will decide on the information to be returned and John will get back the residents.
- 3) We had a discussion of options we could implement to help people manage the upcoming heating season, which could cause people to be cold in their homes. We decided to do the following:
 - a. Pursue a program of residents willing to help other residents in heating emergency. This could well be a part of the program the Selectboard developed for emergencies through a survey in the last year. Rich is to discuss this with the Selectboard. And will call on members for assistance in putting this together. This program could, for instance, involve sharing a home for a brief period with a family that cannot afford to heat their home.
 - b. Put together energy fair tentatively for late September. This fair would be multifaceted including a weatherization workshop, some sessions on pellet stoves, solar hot water and solar photovoltaics. Venders, energy audit firms and energy organizations would be invited to provide on how to,

what equipment and costs to residents. Tentatively, we would like this fair to be anchored around the State's Weatherization Mobilization program, which will involve workshops on weatherization and may provide lower cost weatherization materials. We would also like to engage interested residents from Cabot and Plainfield in the planning and implementation of this energy fair.

We decided to meet again on July 28, 2008 to develop the gameplan for the energy fair. In the meantime, Rich will contact Efficiency Vermont and the Weatherization Mobilization program to see if a late September date is doable with these programs as we definitely need their support. Rich will also contact people in Cabot and Plainfield about the energy fair and see if they will attend the 7/28/08 meeting. Rich will also meet with the Selectboards of the three towns to discuss the potential for collaborating between committees on items like the fair, transportation and local generation options. Interested residents of these towns will be invited to attend the Selectboard meetings. These meetings may inspire the beginning of committees in these towns.

- c. Lawrence will check into the availability of firewood to cut in the Groton state forest and we will let people know if it's available. We will be considering a project of getting residents with chain saws together to cut firewood in the town forests for residents that need it but not for this winter, rather next winter.
- 4) Anne reported for the Transportation Subcommittee about the Vanpool and Public Transportation (Bus) information received at the Regional Energy Committee Networking Meeting on July 9, 2008. Anne and Rich discussed these issues with Ross MacDonald of VTrans (AOT). Essentially, a new improved Vanpool program is being rolled out that establishes a state-wide third party vanpool operator and attempts to bring the cost per rider to the \$75 to \$85/month range. VTrans is very interested in towns joining together and developing a user base for more vanpools and potentially bus service.

Anne proposed that a meeting be held of all the stakeholders in the three towns and maybe East Montpelier with the state agency to develop a plan for vanpools and buses. Rich Aiken separately had started to put together information on transportation options and had already talked with Ross MacDonald. It was decided that Rich, Anne and Lawrence would work on transportation. They will refine a workplan and get back to the committee maybe at the regular meeting in August or September.

- 5) Anne raised the possibility of a root cellar tour and possible construction for interested residents. This was a suggestion gathered from the survey. I'm not sure what was decided but the discussion seemed to point towards doing this later in the fall and the priority may not be high given everything else now planned.

- 6) The Committee generally agreed that the energy fair and other options to help people this winter should have priority.
- 7) Rich will contact Owen to set up a meeting on the collaboration with Twinfield. Saul, Rich Aiken, Anne and Bob Atchinson would plan to attend with Owen. Hopefully Debra Stoleroff, Kevin Carney and Julie Shed would also attend.
- 8) Anne suggested some changes in the process of the Committee. She felt the Committee is essentially letting Rich do most of the administrative work and develop most of the ideas of projects to pursue. She suggested others take and prepare the notes of the meeting, the full committee develop the agendas and there be more committee discussion before deciding on which projects to pursue and how to pursue them. Nobody volunteered to do the notes. It was decided Rich would continue to do the notes, send them as draft shortly after the meeting including a draft agenda at the end of the notes. At the beginning of the next meeting, the minutes will be approved with modifications as necessary and the agenda modified from member suggestions. Rich will then modify the electronic version of the notes and send to Bobbi for inclusion on the energy page. The issue of little discussion before projects are decided or what direction to head it is fading away with more members for discussion and our ranking of projects at the 6/23/08 meeting.

Agenda for July 28, 2008 Meeting

Develop the date content and task assignments for the energy fair hopefully with some Cabot and Plainfield people.

Possible Agenda Items for August 11, 2008 meeting

- 1) Continued work on the energy fair
- 2) Potential determination of answers back to residents from information requests (survey)
- 3) Potential preliminary discussion of transportation gameplan
- 4) Potential discussion of the statistics from the survey