

Marshfield/Plainfield Energy Committee  
Notes of  
December 8, 2008 Meeting

Attending: Anne, Lawrence, John, Saul, Rich, Bob, Karl Bissex, Beth Stern, Bram?

Convene: 6:35 PM

Adjourn: 8:40 PM

Business:

1) Neighbor to neighbor network.

Beth Stern representing the Area Council on Aging and Karl Bissex and Bram representing the Plainfield Area Association attended for the discussion of the neighborhood networks. After discussion of several options for implementation of a program we decided we would proceed with a limited program focused mainly on energy issues in keeping with our charge. The proposed program is as follows:

- a.) Rich will contact Bobbi to see if we can have the original list of people that wanted assistance in an emergency developed through the Selectboard's emergency planning survey?
- b.) Ask people on the people on the "willing to help list" from the survey whether they would be willing to take a little training and be a contact for local people that have energy-related difficulties this winter and beyond?
- c.) If necessary, expand the agreed list to cover the town geographically.
- d.) Perform the training so contacts are familiar with the resource programs and how to respond to concerns of residents.
- e.) Get Bobbi's OK and publicize in Field Notes /Posters that residents who have problems keeping warm or and are not presently being helped by one of the service agencies can contact the Town Clerk's Office. The Town Clerk will volunteer closest to the resident who will advise the volunteer closest to the resident who will discuss the problems with the resident preferably through a home visit.

The volunteer will talk to the resident about the situation and assess it, make appropriate referrals, assist the residents in applying for aid if necessary and check back to see what more needs to be done to assist. If there are tasks that could be completed to help the individual that do not require special expertise the volunteer might try to arrange this assistance by contacting the volunteer list and the energy committee to see if a group is willing to perform those tasks

- f.) The volunteers will be encouraged to fill out the Skills Directory form on the PACA website so that people visiting this site can identify residents that are willing to help others and during this winter and beyond. It was discussed that the directory will be also available on the Marshfield web site. The author of the site (Ben Graham) will contact Bobbi on this.
- g.) Anne will contact Joe Gainza to see if he will call the volunteers from the earlier survey to see if they are willing to take on this new task. If he will not, then Anne will let Rich know and he will divide the list and send to

embers to make the calls. Rich will call Bobbi on the list of people needing assistance and whether she is willing to be the primary contact.

Rich will also include this program in the Field Notes article for January

2) Ideas from the “Community Energy Initiatives Workshop” on 12/6/08

Rich reviewed some of the ideas from the workshop. The committee appeared to agree with several:

- a) We should get the anti-idling resolution on the town meeting agenda. Need to do this by petition.
- b) Maybe transportation should be higher on our priority list given the amount of energy consumed.
- c) We need to become familiar with the VECAN website both to post our projects and to see what we can link to from our site vrs. what needs to stay on our site? John is having trouble getting time to work on our site.
- d) Should we do an Energy Efficiency film series this winter through the Library as Waterbury is doing?
- e) Should we pursue the \$12,000 grant from ANR to fund the pellet boiler at OSC or another project? We need to look into this!!!
- f) We should pass along the EPA Energy Benchmarking Program with its computerized Energy Portfolio Manager to Twinfield. This program involves developing a building energy rating from data on use and building attributes. The Twinfield students could use this very effectively.
- g) We generally discussed the need to look again at priorities considering some of these newer ideas.

3) Local Generation Options:

Saul reported that he and Dan had been gathering information that already exists on hydro possibilities and wind. They are thinking that maybe there is enough feasibility information to proceed to an implementation grant instead of the feasibility review grant from the CEDF. They will continue to put this together maybe for a grant from the January or next-after round. Rich reminded that the application will be by the Selectboard and they will need to be convinced of the project feasibility and its financial impact on the town.

4) Next Meeting:

January 12, 2009 at 6:30PM in Plainfield

Agenda: Chair

Priorities