

**Notes of 6/08/09 Meeting
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee**

Attending: Rich Phillips, Bob Atchinson, Lawrence Black, Anne Miller, John Morris, & Saul Gresser

Convene: 6:40 PM

Business:

1) Review of Agenda, items prioritized.

2) Announcements/Other Business: Bob let folks know that in the most recent SERG e-mail there was an article regarding Marc Rosenbalm and Zero Energy Homes. Rosenbalm, an engineer out of the Lebanon/ WRJ area, is designing “Deep Energy Retrofits” to creatively and dramatically reduce energy consumption on existing structures. Those interested should review the article. Community Access TV also had a piece on this work.

Further, Amtrak announced an in-state fare for riding the train. From now ‘til the end of the year, you can travel anywhere in that state that Amtrak travels for \$12 one-way. Example: Montpelier to Brattleboro. Explore the Vermont Rails!

3) Transportation

Rich updated the committee on his conversations with Tawnya Kirsten, the Community Relations Manager for GMTA, regarding transportation issues and commuter options along the Route 2 corridor. This route is definitely a priority for GMTA, and Tawnya is interested in taking part in a four-town discussion regarding current transportation options and expansion possibilities.

Further committee discussion focused on coordinating current route information with regard to bus and vanpool costs, rules of ridership, and schedules. Bob agreed to gather this information so that we could better publicize it. John agreed to post it on the Energy Committee website (energy.town.marshfield.vt.us).

Rich will continue to work with Tawnya to schedule a meeting of energy committee and select board representatives from the four towns (Cabot, Marshfield, Plainfield and E. Montpelier) as well as area nonprofits and businesses known to currently employ bus services (e.g.: The Senior Center, The Plainfield Health Center & Cabot Creamery). Beth Sterns from the Council on Aging and Ross MacDonald or Nancy Rice from the Agency of Transportation will also be invited. The committee felt that it might be best if the invitation for the meeting came from GMTA. Rich will talk to Tawnya about this. A tentative date of Friday afternoon, July 17th @ 3pm was set. Location: OSC, Marshfield.

4) Tour of Town Residences with Renewable Energy Systems.

Further planning re: June 20th tour of Town Residences with Renewable Energy Systems. The tour will leave from the OSC parking lot @ 9 am. Current Schedule:

- 1) 9:05 Anne Miller’s home on Ennis Hill Rd.
- 2) 10:00 Deborah Herbst’s on Hollister Hill Rd.
- 3) 11:00 Jim and Erin Maloy’s on Spruce Mountain Rd.

John agreed to compile brief descriptions of the systems along with contact information that could be handed out to those in attendance during the tour. Anne will provide that information to John for her system. Rich will gather information on Deborah’s system,

and Saul will gather the info for Jim and Erin's. John will also post information on the energy committee website and create a small poster. Lawrence agreed to post posters in Cabot. Rich took Plainfield. John Medose agreed by proxy to post Marshfield and elsewhere. Rich and Bob agreed to be contact persons for carpooling. Rich will send out a press release to the calendar pages for the Times Argus, The World, Cabot Chronicles, The Bridge, and Seven Days. It was suggested that the information also be made available through PACA's website.

5) Summer And Fall Energy Seminar Series

Further planning re: energy related seminars for the summer and fall. Solar thermal hot water seminar tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 25th. PV Grid Tied system seminar tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 28th. Both from 1 to 4 pm. Bob agreed to work with Michael Horowitz from Solar Solutions and Brad from the Groton Solar Store to develop the first presentation. Topics to be covered include an overall explanation of the hot water system and residential design process. Homeowners (e.g., Dan Chodorkoff) who currently have systems in place will be on hand to describe their experiences. Also vendors will be invited to showcase their wares. Vendors to be invited include: Blodgett, Always Plumbing and Heating, House Needs, and Solar Stores.

Rich agreed to contact Robert Walker of Thetford regarding their experiences hosting a similar seminar, which proved fruitful in the Upper Valley area. Perhaps we could fashion the structure and publicity around ours similarly.

A further planning meeting specifically related to the July Solar Thermal Seminar is tentatively scheduled for 6:30 @ OSC, June 22nd, if necessary. Rich will let committee members know.

6) Local Generation Subcommittee Report

Saul provided a brief update on the local generation subcommittee work. The subcommittee, consisting of Saul, Dan Chodorkoff, and Michael Horowitz, met today, June 8th to continue working out the details for a CEDF Municipal Technical Assistance Program application for the design of a large-scale photovoltaic system at the Twinfield Union School or elsewhere, depending on administrative concurrence. Much work still is needed, but the plan is to request close to \$5,000 to cover the costs of designing the project from specifications through the bidding and permitting process. Initial contacts have been made with the Brad Owen, Twinfield principal, regarding interest. Rich will be joining the subcommittee as the town liaison. Further contact and support needs to be garnered from the school board and the two town select boards. Assuming the process goes forward, Michael will be taking the lead as project director. The CEDF has a rolling monthly application process. It is hoped that the application could be submitted in July.

Next Meeting: July 13 6:30 PM OSC

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 PM

Draft Agenda Items For Next Meeting:

- 1) Home Tour Day Wrap-up/Review
- 2) Transportation issues continued
- 3) Summer seminars continued
- 4) Local Generation Subcommittee Report
- 5) Other Business/Announcements

Respectfully Submitted, Saul Gresser