

**Notes of 11/09/09 Meeting
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee**

Attending: Lawrence Black, Rich Phillips, Dan Chodorkoff, Anne Miller, Bob Atchinson, Ed Hutchinson, & Saul Gresser

Convene: 6:40 PM

Business:

1) Transportation Route 2 Grant Update: Anne noted that the Caledonia Record, in an article on Oct 23rd, stated that GMT and RCT had received funding to implement the transportation route between St. J and Montpelier. Pick up times in Marshfield were planned for the AM (to Montpelier @6:45; to St. J @7:50) and PM (to Montpelier @4:30; to St. J @5:35). Rich had not received official confirmation of this from the Agency of Transportation and will check into it.

2) Next Steps:

The following topics were discussed and prioritized:

1. More direct help to homeowners on weatherization
2. Creation of volunteer weatherization teams
3. Use and promotion of our website
4. Hosting a grid-tied PV workshop
5. Development of Coop for bulk purchasing
6. Promotion/ implementation of Marshfield "Clean Energy Assessment District"
7. Promotion of new home energy-saving construction zoning guidelines
8. Development of neighborhood energy groups
9. Follow through on Twinfield Solar Project
10. Pursuit of second round of home energy visits through EV Com. Mblztn. Prg.
11. Distribution of weatherization info & materials at monthly food drop program

#s 1,2, and 10 were combined under weatherization. #8 was collapsed into #2. At this time, the committee does not feel that a second round of the Community Mobilization Program (VCM) would be the most effective use of our time. Response from the first round, while positive, has not been followed up by significant improvements or numbers of audits being completed by those families that participated. Rich's attempt to survey first round participants regarding their impressions of the energy visits and subsequent improvements made has met with little success (no responses out of thirty-five households e-mailed). VCM's goals for the second round (80 visits/10 audit minimum) seem unattainable at this time. Even though EV is offering a 150\$ coupon toward audits for those who complete a home energy visit, additional incentives are probably needed. Further, CVCAC currently has a 3-4 month waiting period for eligible homeowners seeking energy audits.

Suggestions moving forward included creating local volunteer teams that could pick up materials from CVCAC to assist qualified households with self-help improvements. Obviously, we would need further training, but this could help with the backlog of audits. Simpler measures might be more quickly addressed through distribution of EV's DVD on

home energy improvements. How can we better facilitate this distribution and further incentivize the program? **Bob asked if folks who receive fuel assistance are in any way cross-referenced or referred to the weatherization program? A good general question for CVCAC.**

3. Website: currently the site is underused. What can we do to increase attractiveness and promote use? Also, how can we best manage content and access? **Rich will e-mail site to committee members.** All to review and prepare for discussion at next month's meeting.

4. Grid-tied Workshop: consensus to postpone at this time. **Revisit for possible implementation in the spring or beyond.**

5. Bulk Purchase Coop for weatherization materials and tools: This idea is tied to the local weatherization teams. **Anne questioned whether EV might be willing to fund the purchase of tools needed.** Rich thought that with \$300.00 or less we could acquire a basic cache of weatherization tools. **Dan thought he could fundraise for that amount locally. Dan will look into this and update the group next meeting.** Other ideas included bulk ordering weatherization supplies. No further action at this time.

6. Clean Energy Assessment District: Rich and Dan attended the Environmental Action Conference at the VTC in Randolph and believe this could be a good way of providing funding for families considering PV installations and other renewable energy renovations to their homes. Idea involves the town floating a bond that would then be loaned to homeowners and paid back to the town with interest as an additional payment to taxes. Questions abound regarding, among other items, popular vote approval and town administration, but the committee felt it a worthy avenue to explore. More discussion needed. Those interested can read documents related to the idea online: Google search pdf form. Type in: VEIC.ORG.RAEL.BERKLEY in the search engine. A Sub-committee was created to explore this issue further: **Bob, Dan, Saul & Rich will meet Wednesday, November 23rd @ 6:45pm OSC.**

7. Zoning Guidelines: Bob has already worked with Plainfield zoning official on this process for Plainfield; guidelines are in place. Rich has forwarded similar energy information to Bob Light who is putting this together for Marshfield. **No further action needed at this time.**

8. see #2 above.

9. Committee agreed that **Rich should resubmit the Twinfield Solar project application to CEDF** with Michael Horowitz acting as project manager to review RFPs from qualified installers. Meanwhile, Michael forwarded information to sub-committee members re: Kinesis Energy Group, an alternative energy installer with a specialty in school installations including educational curricular component. Kinesis could be considered for RFP. More review needed. Also, Rich reported that Twinfield Principal, Owen Bradley, informed him that Norm Etkind has completed a fairly comprehensive

energy review of the complex. More work is needed on this as well. The review, among other things, indicated that more insulation is needed and that there is no thermal barrier in the ceiling of the building. **Sub-committee will meet to move project forward. Dan to contact Michael, then other members of sub-committee to schedule.** Issue raised regarding a possible conflict of interest for Michael because he is a solar installer. The sub-committee assured the committee that Michael has no interest in bidding on the job, but would simply act as a project expert in review of RFPs.

10. see #2 above

11. Anne brought up the possibility of distributing weatherization information to folks who frequent the **regional food drop program**. The food drop takes place once a month at the OSC. Next drop takes place this Saturday, November 14th. **Rich agreed to help Anne coordinate distribution of relevant information** this Saturday, including EV weatherization DVD's and related program financing brochures, as well as CVCAC program guideline brochures as available. This committee agreed that this could be a good ongoing method for further outreach.

3) Announcements:

- VCAN, EV, CEDF conference scheduled for Lake Morey on December 5th.
- Ed, Rich, and Bob are planning to attend the REV photovoltaic design training workshop later this month.

Next meeting: December 14th, 6:30, OSC. Among issues to be discussed: Local weatherization teams, website, bulk purchase update, and loans.

Meeting adjourned 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Saul Gresser