

**Minutes of 2/08/10 Meeting
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee**

Attending: Lawrence Black, Ed Hutchenson, Bob Atchinson, John Morris, Anne Miller, & Saul Gresser
Convene: 6:40 PM

Business:

1) Transportation: Route Two Commuter Grant and Recent Meeting Report:

Anne, Lawrence and Bob attended the transportation meeting and reported back.

Bob mentioned that Tawnya Kristen from GMTA recently sent an e-mail saying that Plainfield and Marshfield's commitment to the grant looks good. Not as clear about E. Montpelier. If two of the towns pass, GMTA will likely make a go of the new route. Ultimately it's Green Mountain Transit's board's decision because they'd have to cover the gap in funds. St. Johnsbury (RCT) is now back on board to join the Route 2 route. If this happens, one could feasibly ride from St. J to Burlington for \$4, and then, after arriving in Burlington, be able to ride free throughout the city on a transfer.

GMT also has indicated that there will be a student fare offered to Twinfield students. Students will likely be able to purchase reduced cost tickets at the school.

Discussion moved toward how to get the word out about the upcoming town meeting vote and talking points on funding the local share needed to match the grant funds for the commuter route. Bob handed out some background information that he received from Tawnya. Tawnya plans to create a template for a flyer/poster of sorts, which could be used to spread the word further. John agreed to create a flyer/poster/handout if Tawnya hasn't sent info out in a week. Anne agreed to post same.

There was a brief discussion about what Hinesburg might have done to successfully pass their local funding request. Bob agreed to check into Hinesburg's success and report back.

It was also reported that Tawnya said GMTA was willing to attend either one or both of the upcoming town meetings regarding the local share request; that is, either the "pre-town meeting" meeting or the actual town meeting. Michelle, one of Tawnya's co-workers at GMTA is planning to attend the Plainfield "pre-meeting" on February 22nd. Tawnya is planning to attend Marshfield's Town Meeting, and would be willing to attend the pre-meeting if we wanted her to. Lawrence will contact Bobbi Brimblecombe at the town offices to confirm the date and time of "pre-meeting" and to also determine when the commuter route issue is scheduled for discussion and vote at Town Meeting. He will ask Bobbi to make sure that Tawnya is put on the schedule.

One talking point that was again raised was that the request for funds is not foreseen as perpetual. The plan is that the route will generate enough ridership that the state will be willing to pick up the local share after three years. This is what has consistently happened around the state as routes have developed. There is no reason to believe otherwise here. This is an important point to share with residents.

As a means of getting the word out about the upcoming vote, Anne still plans to make phone calls to folks on the energy committee's community volunteer list. Bob agreed to call folks from the energy fair distribution list.

2) CEDF Municipal Technical Assistance Program Grant:

Bob and Saul gave a brief update on the Twinfield PV project. The Twinfield school board approved the 10% match required for the application and signed the same. The School's liability insurance should cover the project.

The CEDF subcommittee still has not met since the last meeting. Saul agreed to check in with Rich Phillips regarding where the application was at this time. Have we heard anything from the fund?

There was a brief conversation re: who will oversee the RFP development if an impartial consultant can't be found. Both Bob and Saul thought that such a consultant is likely to be found, but we'd have to address that question directly later if we ran into the problem.

Bob again raised the issue of the recent energy audit and the need to first address conservation concerns before installing a PV system. All agreed that conservation needed also to be addressed, but there was disagreement about what needed to be done first. It was suggested that someone from Twinfield's facilities committee be solicited for assistance with the audit's conservation suggestions. Ed remarked that it was his

understanding that the PV array was primarily for educational purposes and was unlikely to supply that much power for the school anyway. At this point, it was seen as somewhat of a moot issue, because we do not know yet if we have received the planning grant. More conversation needed.

3) Weatherization Teams:

Ed visited the first person to contact the teams through the website and article in Field Notes. Self help possibilities abound. The question was raised about whether the family would qualify for CVCAC Weatherization services. Ed did not believe so, but was uncertain. He agreed to follow up with Dave Fowler from CVCAC to ask if they have a copy of the audit which was performed on this home several years ago. Ed noted that he loaned a copy of the home weatherization video to the homeowner.

Bob noted that there is \$300 in the Plainfield budget for weatherization. This will be available by the end of June. Plainfield would like to purchase a foam gun plus a basic kit of materials and a heat-sensing gun. Bob agreed to share the Plainfield budget with us. He said we also have about \$280–300 available from the recent EV home visit incentives program. Further, Bob reminded us that Plainfield's Karl Bissex administers a small RLF available for home weatherization projects, among other things.

Discussion briefly moved to the possibility of obtaining cameras to detect heat loss. Ed talked about jerry-rigging cameras to do this; he believes this could work and would be cheaper than buying one specifically designed for that function. John mentioned that it was important that any technology we hope to use or lend out needs to be user friendly. No further discussion.

Saul mentioned that Dan Chodorkoff had agreed to do some fundraising for Marshfield around the weatherization materials and tools. He agreed to check with Dan to see about progress in this regard.

4) Other business:

1) Local Generation: Subcommittee has not met. With regard to the development of a Clean Renewable Energy Bond, Bob says that Burlington is looking into this more thoroughly and it might make good sense to let them develop a workable template for us to follow later. Rich or Dan agreed at an earlier meeting to speak with Peter Adamczyk from EV about this agenda. We need to check in with one of these folks to see if there is an update.

2) Marshfield Lighting Grant: No update at this time. Rich applied for lighting; word expected by the end of February. Bob noted that Weatherization of the fire station in Plainfield was underway.

3) Website Questions: John reported that he has updated the minutes to the website; he will add information about the bus/transportation route issue. He also indicated that, yes, the site does count hits and we can retrieve that information at any time.

4) Zoning Guidelines Update: No real update at this time. Rich is in contact with Bob Light who would be preparing any changes. Efficiency Vermont has been working on developing a more comprehensive residential energy code for Vermont.

5) Outreach to Food Drop participants: Anne reported that Rich ended up attending this event, and he has the update. He was giving out button-up videos and CVCAC weatherization information to participants. Since he is not here tonight, we need to check in on this issue at our next meeting.

Next meeting: March 8th, 6:30, OSC.

Draft Agenda:

1. Results of Transportation grant vote
2. Weatherization Teams: Next steps
3. Updates:
 - a. CEDF Municipal Technical Assistance Program Grant
 - b. Local Generation
 - c. Marshfield Lighting Grant
 - d. Zoning Guidelines
 - e. Outreach to Food Drop participants

Meeting adjourned 7: 52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Saul Gresser