

Minutes of 3/08/10 Meeting
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee

Attending: Rich Phillips, Ed Hutchinson, John Morris, Dan Chodorkoff, Anne Miller, & Saul Gresser

Convene: 6:40 PM

Business:

1. **Transportation Grant:** The vote to commit local shares was passed by all towns. There is a meeting with GMT scheduled for the 22nd, 6:00 pm, Old Schoolhouse Common, to begin working out details such as stops and route times, among other things. Anne reminded all that we ought to encourage bicycling as an adjunct to the new commuter bus service. Bike racks are features of the park and ride system and there are, additionally, racks attached to the busses that can carry as many as four bikes. Making bicycling easier and more attractive is a subject that ought to be brought up at the 22nd meeting.
2. **VECANN networking meeting:** Meeting is planned for Barre City Council Room, Thurs., 18th at 6:00pm.
3. **CEDF grant request for new pellet boiler for Old Schoolhouse Common:** Rich gave a brief update on the grant request. 90 K project for the purchase of a Sunwood boiler. It will have a silo with auger for feeding pellets. The town will also have a small propane backup for emergencies. The grant was not submitted in time to qualify for the first round of federal stimulus money. There were also a few obstacles; for example, the original grant contains a “buy American” provision, and the Sunwood is not an American-made boiler. Unfortunately, however, there really are no other appropriately sized boilers that would meet our needs. There is some political effort underway to change this provision so that we could buy the boiler we wanted. Further concerns regarding building in the flood plain and historical preservation issues will likely also slow this project down. But Representative Peter Welch is looking for a small project to run through an earmark on another bill, and it is possible that we will know more about another round by the end of the week. Rich will keep us posted.
4. **Energy teams:** Brief further discussion about next steps for making these teams more effective. Information about the availability of the energy teams was printed in the most recent *Field Notes*; no takers at this time. It was suggested that next year, prior to town meeting, the energy committee publicize energy team services and then host a table at the meeting. All agreed that this was a good idea. One other suggestion was to activate the “Energy Matters” e-mail list a month prior to town meeting to generate further interest. With regard to lending out the kilowatt meters, the suggestion was made that we create a display for the town clerk’s office and the library. Anne agreed to put up these displays. In terms of further promotion, Dan still is planning to do additional fundraising for energy materials, which the teams could use. The question of further available training opportunities still needs to be addressed, as does the issue of liability for the team members. The latter question, at least, needs to be brought before the selectboard. Energy team protocols also need to be developed.
5. **The Twinfield PV Grant:** No further work has been done on this grant proposal. Some question remains as to who the principal project manager will be. Michael Horowitz, Solar Solutions, seems to have dropped out of the picture. Jim Grundy, Elemental Energy, also seems to be too busy. Dave Palumbo, Independent Power, may be willing to work on the curriculum development for this project if it ever gets off the ground. As of now, the sub-committee is stalled.
6. **Other Business/ Announcements:**
 - a. The town has decided to hold off on replacing the streetlights for downtown at the present time. The money was needed to clean the lagoon instead.
 - b. The Plainfield hydro project has been shelved indefinitely.
 - c. Energy upgrades on Old Schoolhouse Common continue. Above-grade Styrofoam installation needs to be done; most likely scheduled for the end of April. Volunteers are needed. John offered his services. Others are welcome. Contact Rich.
 - d. Rich will write up an announcement for “Energy Matters” about Efficiency Vermont’s new \$2500 weatherization incentive program
7. **Next Steps/Projects:** Committee members were encouraged to use the next month to consider what our next steps should be going forward. Ideas include workshops on Grid-tied PV systems and solar hot water systems. Perhaps we should film Rich Phillip’s home installation of his grid tied system and use it as a promotional video! All ideas on the table.

Next meeting, April 12, 6:30.

Meeting adjourned 7: 32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Saul Gresser