

**Minutes of 4/12/10 Meeting
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee**

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

Convene: 6:40 PM

Business:

1. The committee reviewed **EV's proposal for follow-up to the VCEM program:** We decided not to further pursue the program as EV suggested, but Rich will ask EV if they would be willing to send follow-up letters explaining the availability of further incentives and rebates to the eleven or twelve high energy use households based on our initial visits. Rich would then be willing to further follow-up with those households himself to see if full audits and energy upgrades could be completed. With regard to Plainfield, Bob will approach the Plainfield Selectboard to determine whether or not the Plainfield committee will continue the VCEM program as EV is suggesting.
2. Saul gave a brief summary of the March 27th statewide **VECANN meeting regarding the Clean Energy Assessment Districts (now called PACE, Property Assessed Clean Energy).** Not much interest on the Marshfield committee to actively create such a district for Marshfield at this time, but Saul agreed to continue to follow PACE news statewide and report back.
3. Rich provided the latest **update on the new CVCAC Do-It-Yourself program.** The DIY program is designed to provide homeowners with the necessary training through "Skill Shops" to do basic weatherization work on their houses themselves. Paul Markowitz, program director, outlines the following ideas: First focus on the Button Up participants from last year in order to complete 50 homes by December statewide. This would be a draft pilot program designed to be standardized and replicable. Participation would be free (current available money is tied to the federal stimulus funding). Households would receive a 150\$ coupon off completion of weatherization projects in their home. Weatherization teams could help out: as a possible example, first get training and then disperse that information and training to individual homeowners in their respective towns. Federal incentives are also available: 30% reduction in costs up to \$1500 on materials; total weatherization costs up to a maximum of \$2,000.

The committee liked this program idea. Perhaps there is a way to further leverage the money from DIY. Anne again suggested the creation of weatherization materials coop. Bob mentioned his current membership in the Energy Federation Coop and how this connection could be useful to others. A suggestion was made to offer energy audits free to those who participate in trainings. Also it was suggested that the program specify homeowners should first make improvements to those items identified as saving the most in energy/dollars. Members were encouraged to review information currently distributed by CVCAC and make further comments.
4. **Available weatherization grants for municipal buildings:** Rich gave a brief update on the grants for the Old Schoolhouse Common, fire station and garage.

The Regional Planning Commission has incentives for audits. Rich will talk to the selectboard and will try to get the grant request in by the end of April. Bob filled the committee in on progress with similar grants and audits for the Plainfield fire station, wastewater treatment plant, and town hall. The audits were free, and a \$4200 grant was awarded for weatherization.

5. Rich provided an update on **the boiler for the Old Schoolhouse Common**: this project was part of a remainder earmark from Congressman Welch. We should know in June whether we will receive the funds and most likely won't have the boiler until the end of year. 30% of the funds are from a CEDF grant.
6. **Route Two Commuter Update**: Buses to begin operating on April 19th! Another early Link bus has been added outside of the original scheduled times. The committee was concerned about getting more publicity out about the new buses. Anne agreed to put up signs if someone would get her the information. Rich will query Tawnya regarding the same. Parking: for now, five commuter spaces have been identified at the OSC parking lot. A new berm is being considered to create ten angled spaces eventually. A question arose about the possibility of applying for a park and ride grant for new lights and bus booth. There was further talk of marking the arrival of the bus with tin whistles or train whistles and general fanfare! For now, we need to promote, promote, promote the bus and don't forget to ride it. The new bus schedule went out in Field Notes and on the Energy Matters e-mail list.
7. **Other Business and Announcements**
 - a. Committee members were asked to prioritize listed projects for further action:
 - i. DIY
 - ii. Weatherization Teams
 - iii. Twinfield building
 - b. Additional notes for Field Notes:
 - i. Mention availability of Watt meters: 4 currently out in Plainfield none currently in use in Marshfield.
 - ii. Volunteers needed to help complete the outside of OSC.
 - iii. Fresh blood needed on this committee!!!
 - iv. Rich to begin work on his house PV project. Date to be listed in Field Notes and on the Energy Matters e-mail listserv.
 - c. A final note: Ed gleefully announced that he has clocked 1.5 million watt hours on his windmill; a savings thus far of \$300.

Next meeting: MAY 10TH , 6:30 pm

Adjourned : 8:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Saul Gresser