

Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee

Meeting minutes, Sept. 13, 2010

Present: John Morris, Dan Chodorkoff, Ed Hutchinson, Bob Atchinson (scribe), Rich Phillips (chair)

Call to Order: 18:47

Approval of previous meeting minutes: No corrections – motion to accept by Dan C., second by John M.- Approved.

Discussion of what constitutes a quorum: With present size of committee, 5 members, not counting Plainfield attendees (usually 1 or 2), a quorum would be three, and simple votes would, therefore, be passed by 2 yes votes.

1. Report on lighting options for Old Schoolhouse Common (OSC)

John Morris has been investigating interior lighting options for the OSC. There are apparently 90 +/- lighting fixtures in the building. One of the issues driving the study is that t-12 fluorescent tubes/fixtures will be banned as of 2012, and replacement tubes will no longer be available. LED's and newer organic LED's could be options, but at present are still prohibitively expensive.

Efficiency VT has an incentive program which goes through December 31st, and pays \$40 per fixture replacement. They will also pay 50% of a lighting audit, up to \$2000. For OSC the best guess is \$500 for the audit, and \$500 for design. The incentive on LED exit signs is \$35 each, but we don't yet have an estimate for the replacement cost. Other options were mentioned, such as motion sensor switching in locations such as the vault. A motion was made by Dan, seconded by John, to task John Morris with contacting Efficiency VT, and to proceed with estimating paybacks, incentive and options for an audit. Motion was carried.

2. Plainfield Old Home Day Report – Bob Atchinson

Old Home Day was held September 11th in Plainfield. Prior to the start of the parade, there was an official dedication of the Plainfield Park & Ride lot by Bob Atchinson, Energy Coordinator, Keith Terry, Select Board chair, Miss Vermont, and Tawnya Kristen of GMTA. To celebrate the success of the US 2 Commuter Bus, campaigned for by the tri-town energy committees, a GMTA bus led the parade, following a ribbon-cutting by Miss Vermont. There will be a commuter shelter and bike racks installed on site in the near future. The bus provided some brief shuttle service after the parade, and all riders were given free "TRY ME" ride passes. Dan Chodorkoff drove a GEM zero-emission electric vehicle in the parade to represent the Plainfield & Marshfield energy committees.

3. Commuter lot enhancement at Marshfield OSC stop:

There had been a suggestion to widen a portion of the parking lot and designate an official boarding location at the OSC, but the committee decided not to pursue that at this time, as parking has not been an issue. There is no present need for a shelter, either.

4. Recruiting New Committee members:

Brainstorming of how to get more people active on the committees in both towns. Nancy Notterman, Energy committee chairperson in Hardwick, now working for the Central VT Regional Planning Commission part time, has offered her assistance in recruiting new people.

5. Preview of subcommittee work:

The photovoltaic (PV) subcommittee will meet on Monday the 20th to explore options for a town-owned PV array at the OSC grounds which would be adequate to supply all the electricity needs for the town, and seek methods to determine interests and partnerships for a community solar project.

Other business: Bob announced that the Plainfield Town Hall on High St. and the Wastewater Plant on Recreation Field Road will be audited on Friday September 24th, funded by a CVRPC grant. All are welcome to either participate in or observe the process.

Meeting adjourned at 19:58. Next full committee meeting will be held on October 11th, 2010.