

DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

OCTOBER 15TH 2014

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Hand, Coordinator; Jim Salsgiver, Nancy Faesy, Ellen Maloney, Bill Laberge, Tyler Yandow, Zoning adm'r; Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager; and Kerry Wilson of NeighborWorks, guest.

NEIGHBORWORKS

Kerry Wilson, an outreach worker with NeighborWorks spoke about what they can offer local Energy Committees and ways in which she might work with our group. She explained how they respond to requests for energy audit requests and the steps they go through with homeowners. She may be contacted at [\(802\)-438-2303](tel:802-438-2303) Ext #229 or at kwilson@nwwvt.org. Literature on weatherization opportunities and signs were distributed and are available. The energy audit is still available for \$100.. She will find out if there is an additional fee for the "test-out", the after test that is required in order to receive the Efficiency Vermont incentives.

Kerry also noted that they have a state-wide loan program which offers an unsecured loan for up to \$15,000 at 5.35 % Kim Bina at NeighborWorks is in charge of the loan program. This is an alternative to PACE for some and has been used by at least one Dorset Resident.

Relative to COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMPS, Ken Welch is their expert. EV will not be announcing their incentives for cold climate heat pumps until December.

RESOURCES, CONFERENCES and UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Nancy Faesy and Ellen reported on the Vermont Interfaith Power and Light conference. Nancy will send her report to Jim S. for circulation. Ellen noted their emphasis on divestment of fossil fuels as a conservation strategy. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has just announced that it now in the process of divesting. VT IPL is offering grants to religious congregations for energy efficiency projects on buildings owned by them.

Bill Laberge will be attending the Renewable Energy Conference in Burlington this weekend and will report back to the committee.

Efficiency Vermont will be hosting a community forum for input for its next 3 year plan. It will include a free light supper and is set for Nov.5 at 6-7:30 pm at the BCRC office in Bennington. RSVP on line. Visit EfficiencyVermont.com/CommunityForums for directions and other locations.

Jim Salsgiver suggests we check out Norm Etkind's (SEMP) study which offers a thorough comparison of various energy sources/costs/advantages and disadvantages, at <http://drive.google.com/file/d>

VNRC and NeighborWorks are hosting a roundtable discussion on thermal energy efficiency at the BROC office on Wed. Nov. 12th. Time?

TOWN PLAN

Three de minimus changes were made at the first public hearing. The 2nd public will be in connection

with the Select Board meeting on November 18th at 7pm.

ZONING

The Jason Day application for construction of Star Wind Turbines is progressing.

Tyler reported on new building permits. We discussed ways which will help builders to be more attentive to notifying Tyler when the RBES inspections are ready to be done. The object is to get them to plan for energy compliance in advance, not to try to fit within the specs after completion. Tyler will contact one of us to take a photo of an inspection that can be published and used to raise awareness.

NEIGHBOR VISITS

Ellen and Nancy visited one home and will visit at least one more this month. We're continuing to reach out help Dorset neighbors who are interested in weatherization. The problem seems to be how to translate interest into action.

Ellen and Jim Hand visited with Brian Champion who helped start the Center for Advancement of Public Action at Bennington College. He has offered to work with us on ways to overcome people's inertia.

NEXT MEETING

We will try to schedule our next meeting at a time others can come, but we don't want to lose attendance by Tyler and Rob. Perhaps we can meet at the Spiral Press at 8am (as we used to) and have a special guest or subject.

Respectfully,
Ellen Maloney