

DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 5, 2011 Meeting

(3:00 p.m. at Dorset Town Hall)

PRESENT: Jim Hand, Energy Coordinator; Jim Salsgiver; Ellen Maloney; Doug Colson; Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager; Tyler Yandow, Zoning Administrator.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: The purpose of this meeting was to discuss/study ways in which the Revised Residential Building Energy Standard ("RBES" or "Code") passed by the Legislature last year and effective on October 1st of this year impacts the Town.

THE SURVEY: The Public Service Board ("PSB") has contracted with the Energy Futures Group and Cx Associates to survey "stakeholders" to gather input on the best ways of gaining 90% compliance with the Code standards by 2017. (The Code applies to both new construction and renovations of residential properties.) The 90% compliance requirement was agreed to by Governor Douglas as a condition to acceptance of the ARRA funds grants received and used by the State. The Energy committee has questions about the list of "stakeholders" surveyed, as it does not include Select Boards, planning commissions, zoning administrators or town managers or energy coordinators who would be implicated in achieving compliance. We believe that the survey results might be unreliable as a result. We agreed that we might fill out the survey anyway even though the deadline might have passed. It was further agreed that Tyler Yandow and Rob Gaiotti would each contact the PSB and Energy Futures and the VLCT about this.

PUBIC EDUCATION ON RBES: Jim Hand asked that Tyler Yandow contact Jim Sullivan about using his article on the energy code (see Town Newsletter) on a countywide basis.

DISCUSSION: General discussion took place on how compliance could work in Dorset. Aims were to insure no additional costs to the Town or taxpayers - any costs of ensuring compliance should be borne by the new owner. Would inspections be needed? Who would do them and what qualifications / education would the inspector need? An increased permit fee could ensure no cost to the town - would that be the way to go? Should any fee be based on the size of the project?

PACE WORKSHOP: Jim Salsgiver and Jim Hand will be attending this seminar at the Vermont Law School and will report back.

TOWN PLAN: Tyler Yandow will review the Town Plan and RBES to prepare recommendations as to how the Code might be complied with locally at a minimum of cost and with as little disruption as possible to Town and residents.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be a regular meeting at the Hand Motors Conference Room at 8:30 am Monday November 7th.

Respectfully, Ellen Maloney