

DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 1, 2010 Meeting

PRESENT: Jim Salsgiver, Bill Laberge, Alex Bornstein, Ellen Maloney, Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager)

GUESTS: Dale Baker, Casella Waste Management

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING

- New Signage will go up at the Northshire (E. Dorset) Transfer Station reflecting the new categories for recycling and to give clearer direction to the public.
- New instructional handouts will be given out at Town Meeting and at the transfer station.
- Next step: Casella is willing to work with the Committee on a composting option at the transfer station.
- A display table at Town Meeting will reflect recycling advances. This is being put together by Tony Panetta and Bill Laberge.
- Three trash haulers in the area, TAM, Breton-Towslee and Casella take recycling for FREE. All recyclables, including plastics #1-#7 can go in one container.
- Casella is also working on the recycling of CRT monitors.
- The Energy Committee would like to assist the town in the negotiations for the next recycling and solid waste contract. A copy of the existing contract has been provided to several Energy Committee Members interested in working on this issue.

FIRE DISTRICTS

- The DEC is still awaiting word from the Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF) regarding a grant round for which the Fire Districts will be eligible. Rob Gaiotti will contact the Prudential Committees when the grant guidelines have been received.
- East Dorset has applied for Stratton Foundation funds for weatherization.

ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCE GROUP STUDY

The group is still gathering information.

- Ellen Maloney to provide the USFS 5-YEAR PLAN to the group.
- A visit to the Cornell wind turbine will be scheduled for late March (Note: since scheduled for March 26th at 4 pm) as part of our fact gathering on all resource options available to the Town and its residents. All are welcome on the visit.

IDLING

Casella has placed three minute (maximum) governors on its trucks to prevent undue idling. This saves Casella money.

SELECT BOARD

Jim Hand, Energy Coordinator, will report to the Dorset Selectboard at the April meeting if the Selectboard is agreeable to that.

- Committee members are invited to suggest items that should be reported.

SCHOOL

Students are participating in a student lunch composting project.

-- Project to display at the Town Meeting. (Renee Bornstein, parent, is organizing this.)

Congratulations to our future leaders. The compost materials are sent to Some Day Farm.

-- Jim Salsgiver has gathered and will display Energy savings accomplished at the school in the past year. Note: In November and December 2009, more than \$600 has been saved in each month - versus November and December of 2008. Annual savings were conservatively estimated for the School Budget – which reflects a \$2,500 decrease for next fiscal year. Information is still being gathered and analyzed to determine fuel oil savings as well.

TOWN OFFICES

Rob Gaiotti has generated some bar charts which show very sizeable savings to the Town on electrical use in the two years since energy improvements were done and efficiency practices by staff were put in place. Information is still being gathered and analyzed to determine fuel oil savings as well.

REPORTS

-- Vermont Wood Pellet tour - The Energy Committee was given a really informative tour, very much appreciated by all.

-- Visit to Wind Turbine- see above in Energy and Water Resource Group section

-- Clean Energy Assessment Districts (CEAD) Jim Salsgiver reported that the Peter Adamczyk's Brattleboro session was very informative. He attended with Jim Hand as part of our effort to stay in touch with this program so that Dorset will have the choice of participating should it be found appropriate and helpful. He noted one weakness in the Vermont program, as the legislation relating to these programs did not provide that the town would be a senior creditor in all cases (specifically not senior in the case of a foreclosure). This shortcoming could require tighter underwriting criteria, if we are able to ultimately put together a program.

Respectfully,
Ellen Maloney
Dorset Energy Committee Chair

NEXT DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE APRIL 5, 2010 AT THE SPIRAL PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM AT 8:30 am.