

DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of December 7, 2009 Meeting

PRESENT: Jim Hand, Jim Salsgiver, Ellen Maloney, and Lee Krohn

[NOTE: Because of low attendance and other pressing concerns (grant applications), consideration of several agenda items was postponed until our January Meeting, which we trust will be better attended. Postponed were: Dorset's Water and Energy Resources (Alex Bornstein, Tony Panetta, Doug Colson and Bill Laberge); Energy Committee status and nomination of Energy Coordinator & Mission Statement; Reporting to Select Board; Recycling; Idle Free signs and hand-outs.]

STRATTON FOUNDATION GRANT: Lee Krohn reported the completion of the retrofitting/weatherization of two local homes. Lee has taken photos and will do an article for the press. Lee will also coordinate payment of the contractors. The funds are in the Interfaith Council's bank account.

DORSET SCHOOL: The School has applied, with the help of SEMP, for a \$50K grant from EECEBG funds. These funds have been applied for under the Energy Retrofit category and are intended to be used for updates to the School's heating system, and all funds granted will directly benefit the school.

DORSET & EAST DORSET FIRE DISTRICTS: EECEBG Grant applications for funding have been turned down because Fire Districts (independent municipalities) are not treated as eligible entities under the CEDF grant guidelines. We had anticipated this refusal, but supported the applications nevertheless in order to preserve Dorset's rights should there be a rule change, and also to impress the Department of Public Service and CEDF with our readiness, the strength of our interest and the basic unfairness of their restriction on fire districts as opposed to fire departments. The Energy Committee has already received assurances that another grant round is in the offing for January or February for "Public Serving Institutions". We have been told that priority will be given to ensuring inclusion of fire districts in the eligibility guideline.

OTHER GRANTS: We discussed the possibility of applying through Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) for a EECEBG grant to do a feasibility study and take steps to implement a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program which could ultimately facilitate loans for Dorset homeowners and businesses for weatherization and retrofitting. The deadline for a preliminary application (like a letter of intent) was December 8, 2009. The Committee received assurances from the Department of Public Service and VEIC that applications could be solely for preliminary work such as surveys of local need and interest, training and public education. The town would not be committed to any cash obligation as the required match (of at least 10%) for the Grant could be met entirely in-kind (with volunteer time). The Town also would not be committed to anything beyond this initial feasibility study. A preliminary application was then filed to keep our foot in the door.

THE NEXT DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 4, 2010, at the Spiral Press Conference Room at 8:30 am sharp. *(Please let Ellen Maloney or Jim Salsgiver know if you will not be attending. Thank you.)*

Respectfully, Ellen Maloney