

DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 4, 2010 Meeting

PRESENT: Jim Hand, energy coordinator, Jim Salsgiver, Ted Taylor, Alex Bornstein, Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager, and Ellen Maloney.

STRATTON URGENT NEEDS GRANT (WEATHERIZATION): We will ask Lee Krohn about getting the article concerning weatherization of two local homes into the paper.

ENERGY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE/ORGANIZATION: Ellen Maloney will draft a letter to the Select Board asking that we retain the original structure; that is, that the Select Board appoint a coordinator with the authority to select a committee to assist him or her. The letter will recommend that they reappoint Jim Hand for this year. The Energy Committee will report to the Select Board quarterly unless otherwise directed. The Energy Coordinator will appoint a committee and a chair. In addition, Jim Salsgiver will circulate (for comment) a proposed Mission Statement to be based on the '07 Town Report. The next Select Board meeting will take place on January 19th.

MEMBERSHIP: Jim Salsgiver expressed concern about lower attendance at our monthly meetings. Alex Bornstein and Jim Hand felt that this is seasonal and doesn't reflect a loss of interest. In any event, each of us will reach out to recruit other possible members, especially on a project to project basis. An invitation to attend our meetings will be added to the Town website, and to our display at Town Meeting.

PACE GRANT: Jim Hand suggested that although we did not receive a grant for the feasibility study, we should see if we can receive copies of the models and survey language and other information generated by grantees so we can work in tandem. Ellen Maloney will draw up a letter to Peter Adamczyk, Energy Finance and Development Manager of Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, asking same.

TOWN REPORT: Ellen Maloney to prepare a draft of the Report of the Energy Coordinator and Committee for the Town Annual Report, for comment by the Committee. The Report is due on January 9th, but effectively can be submitted by January 11th. Jim Salsgiver is to prepare a paragraph on the School's work with the Committee for inclusion.

RECYCLING: Ellen Maloney will communicate back to Joe Soulia some suggestions for meeting the Town's concerns regarding recycling signage at the Transfer Station. Also, Ellen will ask for assistance with a recycling display for Town Meeting. We hope to include a map or diagram and explanation of recycling opportunities at the E. Dorset transfer station as a hand-out at Town Meeting.

TOWN ENERGY RESOURCE SUBCOMMITTEE: Alex Bornstein reported on visits (by Tony Panetta, Bill Laberge, and Alex Bornstein) to the springs in East Dorset and Dorset, together with the respective Fire District Prudential Committee chairs, Steve Bodenheimer and Jack Towsley. For several reasons, including property ownership patterns and access, these springs

were not found to be ideal sites for a small turbine mini-hydro development as Bennington is doing.

On the other hand, we learned that a 16 acre parcel (owned by the Town) upon which The Dorset School sits has been preliminarily determined to be a very good site for wind and solar. Zoning will be reviewed by the subcommittee. Very substantial resources (including money, equipment and engineering) would be available to the town if a feasibility study and/or a project is developed.

Jim Salsgiver will get kwh usage and load information from the school as it is possible that the energy generated could be used by the School. This information will go to Alex Bornstein. Equipment is available at no cost to do a study of potential benefits. This project could have excellent educational possibilities for Dorset School students.

FIRE HOUSES: Rob Gaiotti will check with the Fire Districts to see if East Dorset wants to submit a Stratton grant application (grant round deadline is approximately March 1?) and if Dorset wants to apply. The East Dorset application was already prepared and would only need updating. Our legislators will inform us of another grant possibility supposedly to be publicized in late January.

TOWN OFFICES: Rob Gaiotti will prepare figures and graphs reflecting electrical and heating savings to the Town from weatherization and other improvements at Town Hall based on the Energy Committee's audit. Rob will also put information on the Town website.

OTHER BUSINESS: (1) Ted Taylor spoke about a new technology - "speed bumps" which generate electricity kinetically. Ted may bring some information on this new technology to a future Energy Committee Meeting. (2) Jim Salsgiver will ask Chris Brooks if the Energy Committee could visit his wood pellet manufacturing facility. A tour of the facility could be instructive to our work on identifying alternate energy resources, of which biomass is clearly one. (3) For Town Meeting, we will plan on putting together a presentation on Recycling. Tony Panetta and Bill Laberge have been volunteered for this project (others welcome to offer assistance), and Ellen Maloney will contact Joe Soulia of Casella to determine what materials he could provide for this Presentation.

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 1, 2010 @ SPIRAL PRESS, 8:30 AM

Respectfully, Ellen Maloney