

DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of October 5, 2009 Meeting

PRESENT: Tony Panetta, Maggie Freeman, Bill Laberge, Jim Hand, Alex Bornstein, Nancy Howe, Jim Salsgiver, Ellen Maloney

FIRE DEPARTMENTS: Jim Hand, Thomas Hand and Jim Salsgiver met with the East Dorset Fire Department Prudential Committee regarding grant funds available to the East Dorset Fire Department through the Stratton Foundation, for weatherization of the East Dorset Fire Department building. The discussion revolved around the savings that could be achieved by reducing heat loss. Jim Salsgiver reported that he has received information that indicates that there will be near term progress on some of the energy saving opportunities. We need to approach the Dorset Fire Department again as well to follow up on the results of the energy audit for that Fire Department. Jim Hand will contact Jack Towsley (Prudential Committee Chair). Also to include Bill Laberge and Jim Salsgiver.

DORSET SCHOOL: Custodian Derek Chalmers continues on a roll, installing energy saving improvements. He, Dick Cepela (TDS Business Manager) and Jim Merryman (TDS Principal) have worked well together toward completing most of the items on the “walk through list”. Derek Chalmers is hoping to have another meeting with Thomas Hand to better understand some items on the “walk through list”. Jim Salsgiver will prepare a list of the improvements completed for inclusion in the Town Report and other publication opportunities. (Manchester Journal Environmental section?). The Dorset School’s efforts have been supported and partially funded by rebates and other assistance from SEMP and Efficiency Vermont, as well as assistance from Hand Energy Services and the DEC.

NO IDLING CAMPAIGN: Bill Laberge reported an offer from Carl Berkhout to make 12x18” steel signs @ \$35. The Dorset Union Store and the Dorset Post Office are interested. Bill Laberge will take photos and forward to Idle-FreeVT for Publication. Maggie Freeman and Bill Laberge will continue to contact other businesses (Rumney’s, Mettowee Mill, etc.). Windshield handouts are still in the making.

WEATHERIZATION GRANT: Weatherization of two candidates homes is set for October. Ellen Maloney will call recipients, and there may be PR opportunities.

TRANSITION TOWN: Bill Laberge reported on numerous activities!

Here are some:

- 350.org has reached its goal of 350 fruit trees. There will be a ceremonial planting along with other activities on October 24th. Plan on attending on the 24th.
- November 7th there will be a State wide energy fair in Randolph featuring the work of the various energy committees. Last year’s meeting was excellent.
- November 21st - Food to Plate. Bill Laberge will circulate info on these events as it becomes available.

DORSET'S ENERGY RESOURCES: This will be first on the agenda at the next DEC Meeting. Tony Panetta and others will report. Meanwhile Tony Panetta, Alex Bornstein and Bill Laberge will meet. They are gathering available information on resources for Dorset to help with town planning. Biomass and hydro are the main focus.

THANK YOU to Nancy Howe who has served on the Dorset Energy Committee since the start. We will remember her in particular for her work on the Town Meeting exhibit, her work with the schools and the authoring of our first Town Report. Her calm voice and good questions will be missed.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 2, 2009 at 8:30 am at the Spiral Press conference room.

Respectfully,

EHM

[Note: comments on any omissions/errors are welcome]