

DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 9, 2015 Meeting
(Noon at Dorset Town Hall)

Present: Jim Hand, Jim Salsgiver, Nancy Faesy, Ellen Maloney

Because the CAPA meeting at Bennington College was cancelled due to snow, we held an impromptu meeting at the Town Hall as follows:

TOWN MEETING:

A table for DEC at Town Meeting was arranged through Sandy Pinsonnault. Ellen will leave some materials for the display table at the town office for Nancy to pick up. We should have information on Energy Audits and Auditors available. Jim H. and Jim S. will add pictures of the school's solar installation and other items to the display.

SOLAR SIGHTING:

The Committee discussed information presented at the recent BCRC Meeting on sighting of solar installations, and what that might mean for us locally. It was commented that there appear to be relatively few viable locations for larger scale installations. However, it was also noted that neighborhood level installations, of the type that has been put in place in a number of Vermont communities may be a viable option. VNRC may be able to provide support for groups of neighbors interested in pursuing projects of this type – with case studies from other Towns and sample Agreements that might be used to document such arrangements. Jim also noted an effort being undertaken in some communities called Solarize. The Green Energy Times has some information on Solarize, and we may want to consider exploring developing a Solarize program here, to support local solar projects.

COUNCIL ON AGING/EV TRAINING:

COA and EV have formed a partnership for purposes of training volunteers to assist COA clients. Three of us have been trained. Nancy Faesy may attend the training being offered. Ellen will contact Kate Coss, the director of Neighbor to Neighbor, to see how they might want to be involved. (Update: Kate will call Paul Markowitz at EV.) George Hooker (working with EV and SVCOA on this program) spoke at the last Dorset Senior Connection luncheon. He inspired several attendees to take action. Nancy Faesy and Ellen Maloney have followed up with one of them giving her specific information on how to arrange for an energy audit and doing a walk through. They will stay in touch.

CARBON TAX:

Jim Hand attended a conference on the Carbon [Pollution] Tax. He reports that it appears that the proponents are still in the support building phase. A bill has not yet been fully drafted. Jim Salsgiver mentioned that he had reviewed the Vermont studies done in support of the carbon tax and against the carbon tax – and he suggested that reading both of these studies is a good way to better understand the issues and arguments – allowing one to develop their own informed view.

HEAT PUMPS:

We continue to want to explore options for heat pumps and other heating approaches at Town Hall and at The Dorset School. Jim Salsgiver noted that there could be some urgency at TDS, as the current system is far from optimal and a part of the school heating system may need to be replaced in the not too distant future. So, it will be important to explore all the reasonable options and the DEC may be able to help with putting together information on options and analysis of those options – to allow the School to make an informed decision.

CAPA PARTNERSHIP:

Ellen will email Susan Sgorbati to let her know that CAPA, EV, BCRC and NeighborWorks should go ahead with their meetings and planning. We do not want to slow their progress. We do want to stay in the loop and attend whenever we can but they should not wait for us.

Respectfully
Ellen maloney