

## Craftsbury Energy Committee

Meeting Notes for Thursday, April 18, 2024, Craftsbury Town Hall

Present: Kevin Gregoire, Craig Taylor, Christina Finkelstein, Alan Turnbull, Bill Day, Mabel Houghton, Ned Houston, Jaime Milholland

The notes from the March 21 meeting were reviewed and approved. Christina's cookies were passed around and enjoyed.

### Agenda Items

#### 1. Window Inserts Program

- The drawing for 5 free window inserts was done by Jaime. The winning party is Evelyn Bailey.
- 48 households are on the list for window inserts, although not all are committed. Kevin will follow up with uncommitted households (including people who entered the drawing but did not otherwise commit to getting inserts)
- Measuring teams: Craig, Ned, Kevin, and Alan will be lead measurers. Christina will set up a Doodle poll to (1) establish the measurers' availability, then (2) match up measurers with households that need measuring. Goal is to get the measuring done between May 5 and Memorial Day.
- Kevin is winding down promotion.
- Should we set an upper limit on the number of inserts CEC builds each year? Last year we did 250.
- Are we being effective in getting volunteers, and making insert recipients aware of the volunteer/community aspect of the program? (Last year we had shifts that did not get to work.)
- Bill attended a WD marketing webinar and reported: (1) WD has developed a host of flyers, posters, information sheets, etc. that are available for us to adapt and use. Sofia Reali [sofia.reali@windowdressers.org](mailto:sofia.reali@windowdressers.org) will customize the outreach flyers on request.
  - [Customizable Outreach Flyers](#)
  - [Flyers, Banners, and Posters](#)
  - [Outreach Materials](#)

- (2) Participants reported that local Americorps, Habitat for Humanity, Rotary, American Legion, and Realtors were good channels for marketing window inserts. (Kevin has already reached out to Hardwick banks and Kiwanis w/o a positive response.) (3) Rental properties are good prospects. Both renters and landlords should be approached; rental properties have unique complications.
- Energize Vermont grant: Alan is waiting for a response.

## 2. Community Firewood Project

- In the season just ended, CEC provided 30 cords to 24 or 25 households.
- For the coming season, we have funds to buy 24 cords.
- Outreach to last season's recipients about the coming season: Mabel will do after Kevin provides the list. Note that group emails should use BCC to respect recipients' privacy.
- Logs are expected to be delivered the first part of May with firewood processing scheduled for Sat. 5/11, Sat., 5/18, Sat. 5/25. Kevin will get info out to potential volunteers well ahead of time and right before the dates to plan ahead.
- The main constraint on the firewood program is labor – we don't have a big pool of people on hand to process incoming wood and make deliveries. How much service can we realistically promise and provide? Could we increase our capacity by reaching outside the CEC, for example to Neighbor to Neighbor, churches, schools? Kevin will reach out to local Town committees.
- Also noted that we're overly reliant on John and his trailer – what's our backup?
- Vermont Community Foundation Grant: Susie Houston will follow up.
- Concept 2 grant: Christina applied and got \$500 to apply to a shed.
- Greensboro Association: Kevin applied for \$750 for the firewood project, waiting to hear back.
- Storage project: Consensus is that a Log splitter shed is higher priority over a wood shed. Best location for a log splitter shed is the maintenance lot – i.e. on Town property – the most secure place to store the splitters, which are in fact Town property. Is there space in one of the existing containers on the lot? Jaime and Craig will investigate and report back.
- CEC has about 10 each of moisture testers and smoke detectors which will be distributed to firewood recipients.

### 3. MERP

- Per Craig, the survey of Town Hall and the main maintenance building is done, and we are waiting for the report. The report will be long and technical, and will include specific recommended building improvements eligible for MERP funding. We should think about how best to present the report to the Select Board. Carter Finegan (NVDA) can be helpful with this and will make herself available.

### 4. NEK Renewable Energy Strategy Assessment

- Craig spoke with Justin Dempsey, a UVM PhD candidate who is working on a DOE-funded project to build an energy planning tool. Craig gave input on benefits and costs in our local area of the energy transformation.

### 5. Save Energy NEK

- Kevin will send SENEK information for promoting our May 4 Event.

### 6. May 4 Presentations and House Tours

- Kevin is finalizing the agenda. NETO and Efficiency Vermont will present at Town Hall on weatherizing existing homes, followed by three house tours.

### 7. Craftsbury Farmers Market

- Chris Jacobs from Albany asked for a weekly table at the Craftsbury Farmers Market. Not a lot of interest in manning a CEC table.

### 8. Conference Reports

- Kevin attended the LEAP Energy Fair. Very full exhibit hall (lots of vendors), and very informative breakout sessions.
- Craig attended the Efficiency Vermont conference. The GRACE building in Hardwick has gotten a water problem solution that would be very applicable to our Town Hall. Zero Energy Now is a nonprofit that supports homeowners in taking their homes completely off fossil fuels; at the end of the process, the homeowners' energy costs are equal to or less than before the conversion.

### 9. CEC sign to be redone.

#### 10. Next Meeting

- Will cover leftover agenda items: (1) Reserve Fund; (2) School energy group.
- Thursday, May 16, 7:00 pm, Craftsbury Town Hall

Submitted by Bill Day