

Craftsbury Energy Committee

Meeting Notes for Thursday, March 21, 2024
Craftsbury Town Hall

Present: Kevin Gregoire, Craig Taylor, Christina An, Alan Turnbull, Bill Day, Mabel Houghton, Ned Houston, Jaime Milholland
Present on Zoom: Andrew Cochran

Agenda Items

1. Welcome to new member Andrew Cochran

2. Election of officers:

- Chair: Kevin Gregoire nominated, seconded, and elected
- Secretary: Bill Day nominated, seconded, and elected
- Alan Turnbull noted Kevin's recent appeal for administrative help and offered his services

3. Window inserts program

- We currently have a list of 38 households interested in getting inserts this year, including about 10 entries in the drawing for free inserts. Bill was trained on the WD database by Alison Pouliot and is entering and updating Craftsbury's customer data.
- We will set target dates for measuring at the April CEC meeting.
- Christina has submitted this year's NEGEF grant application. Christina noted some difficulty in providing the information requested in the application.
- Alan will look into the Energize Vermont grant.

4. \$ave Energy NEK

- Craig asked for feedback from those who attended the March 19 event in Greensboro.
Responses:
 - Turnout was overwhelming. As many Craftsbury as Greensboro residents (CEC sent hundreds of emails to promote the event)
 - The panel was good but not great – panel speakers could have been better coordinated
 - The 1-on-1 "speed dating" session did not work out because of the large turnout
 - NETO should have been represented on the panel
 - It's amazing that so many people still turn out for information that CEC has been pushing for fifteen years
 - Speaking as a homeowner, the panel session made me face up to some issues with my own house
- Going forward, Craig will represent CEC at \$ave Energy NEK meetings.

5. The work of CEC

- The review of the \$ave Energy NEK event sparked a lengthy discussion of the work of CEC, including:
 - If someone asks a member for advice, how do we respond? Who is qualified to offer counsel on the many fields that our mission encompasses: weatherization, structural issues, heating and cooling technology, financing, etc.

- How would we advise a DIY-type person compared to someone who will hire a contractor?
- What is the correct approach for us to take vis-à-vis contractors? Should we be referring people to contractors at all?
- Most people don't know where to begin when it comes to making their home more comfortable and efficient. The Efficiency Vermont website has pertinent resources – could we draw on that to create a one-page algorithm or cheat sheet?
- Does NETO offer coaching? Could we ask them to send someone to train CEC members?
- Could CEC start offering a regular clinic covering approaches to improving this aspect of your home: How to choose what to work on, how to make a plan to get it done, how to finance your project (including grants), etc.?
- This conversation will be continued.

6. Community firewood project

- The firewood program is now over-funded by \$1,400 (based on the firewood we are committed to buy). We need to look into what to do with the surplus funding (what is allowed under the VT Community Foundation SUN grant).
- Purchase/construction of a shed for firewood-related equipment to be discussed at the April meeting.
- We need to organize a work day to clean up the firewood area on Dustan Field before the April delivery.

7. Town Meeting review

- CEC gave away 200 LED bulbs from our table at Town Meeting. The bulbs were paid for from the Town allotment to CEC.

8. MERP assessments of Town buildings

- Still scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, starting at 8:00am.

9. Next Meeting

- Thursday, April 18, 7:00 pm, Craftsbury Town Hall

Submitted by Bill Day