

## Craftsbury Energy Committee Minutes 2022-02-17

Attending: Kevin Gregoire, Ned Houston, Craig Taylor, Sten Seeman, Vince O'Connell, Alan Turnbull, Bill Chidsey, Lisa Sammet

### 1. Town Hall Weatherization

- Insulation around hot water pipes and heat vents in the basement
- Craig hasn't heard back to know if there are any funds to complete the project
- Need \$300 for the rest of the material
- Ned will check with Susie. He's sure that the funding is there so we should go ahead
- Craig has a good wholesaler he can go through at half the price.
- Craig will send out an email to everyone for help when he has the materials
- North side foundation is being looked into by Jim Jones w/ professionals, but Kevin hasn't heard back for this
  - There may be ARPA funds for some of this

### 2. Micro Grid update

- Exploring Micro Grid Solar and Battery placement at the Craftsbury Academy Gym / Emergency Shelter. Getting permission to look into feasibility from Craftsbury Academy Trustees and the School Board.
  - Vince did get in touch with Harry Miller from the School Board. He was positive.
  - The school Board will get the info and have it on their agenda for their next meeting
  - School would be primary site, but a back-up site might be Sterling College
  - Vince will look at the circuits at the Academy to check out what is needed
  - Vince also called Encore Electric to gather info
  - Vince will investigate Tesla batteries.
  - Another company is Northern Reliability
  - Power will first be made for current use, then to load the batteries
  - Decided that Vince should present the idea with Hardwick Electric at their next Board meeting as HED will have to be involved all along the way. It would be worthwhile for HED as it would be good for their ratepayers, shaving off electric at peak periods
  - Questions:
    - Microgrid during cold, snowy months- build supply big enough to supply the daily needs  
And can take power from the grid to keep battery full so it is net-metered
    - School needs met, can use it for emergency system but can cut back demand
    - Summer months, school doesn't use as much but the system will produce a lot more
    - It will have Renewable Energy Credits with it, so can count toward HED's portfolio
    - HED could draw power on it all summer during the peak
  - Could put in electric vehicle charging systems to broaden the effect of the microgrid
  - Looking into technical partners for grant application
  - Electrical usage of school, financial processing partner, etc.
  - Any new Elementary School plans by the School Board? Opportunity to put onto the new roof
  - Grant pays up to 80% or project cost.
    - Looking into the potential for ARPA funds to be used in the project
    - Other Grant money needed?
  - If the Town of Craftsbury doesn't want to do it, what other ways could it be done?
  - Other partners: Craftsbury Outdoor Center is interested in building a microgrid
  - Sterling College might be interested
  - Kevin will set up meeting with COC and Sterling to get their input. Will let others on Microgrid subcommittee to know when the meeting will happen.
    - Or build a private coop that could be replicated
    - Proposal is to sell electricity to the grid at "Peak Use" time periods.
    - Subcommittee proposed that any revenue gained from a micro grid be put into weatherization for low-income households.
      - Partner with the NETO Weatherization program for low-income households?

### 3. Firewood Project

- 4 households getting firewood from combo of sources: Split, rounds, 2 dry piles
- Maybe 11 cords of log-length left for this Spring processing and deliveries
- Should we be asking for more, if so, when? Kevin will contact Jared Nunery
- If we get more wood, need a place where we can stack and store it, get it under cover

### 4. Window Insert Program:

- 14 definite households signed up, 6 more interested, 90 inserts committed so far.
- Free Insert requests are low right now, maybe 15 free inserts
  - Marketing to low-income households:
    - Food Shelf Fliers a second time
    - Door-to-door: anyone want to help Kevin to give info about weatherization
    - Table at Recycle with display?
    - Genny Porch?
    - FPF post
    - Need to apply for another 2022 grant: Ned will find out from Susie if we can get grant funds again
  - Our workshop dates at the COC are Friday, 10/21 - Tuesday, 10/25
  - Albany and Greensboro will have programs this year, also using COC right after CEC
    - Goals of numbers of inserts are 100 and 125 respectively
    - Consecutive workshops after ours, all 3 programs over a two-week period
  - Volunteering for team positions forthcoming for the March meeting to establish insert teams
  - Bill Chidsey will help on getting info on how much energy savings come from the inserts

### 5. Low Income Home Weatherization

- Fliers in Food Shelf deliveries.
  - From the 60 fliers we received one inquiry.
  - Maybe NETO received some inquiries?
  - Will put out fliers again
- Other marketing strategies?
- Door-to-door with Insert info? Hard to get people to take advantage
- Idea to get free home-energy audits to low-income people

### 6. [Efficiency Vt's Better Buildings By Design annual in-person conference](#),

- this been moved to April 27 and 28

Next Craftsbury Energy Committee meeting: Thursday, 3/17//22 - 7 pm.