

October 26, 2009 Corinth Energy Committee

Pending approval

Present: Ginny Barlow, Chair; Brad Caswell, Peter Keene, Dan Wing, Laurie Sheridan and Anne Margolis

Meeting began at 7:00 pm. Committee feels a little stalled waiting for grant application specifics. Ginny suggested we work on parallel projects and not wait just for the one big project application. She presented information from Efficiency Vermont on the Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project (VCEM) for 2010. "VCEM is an intensive four-month community-based effort designed to achieve quantifiable reductions in home energy use, stimulate an increase in the number of comprehensive energy retrofits, and increase awareness and understanding by Vermonters of home energy savings opportunities and resources. VCEM relies on community volunteers to conduct "Home energy visits" to install energy saving products, conduct walk-through energy assessments, and confer with property owners about energy saving opportunities in their homes." Anne suggested we could begin with a "Button-up Vermont" project. Members of the committee will learn more about this program before deciding whether to apply.

Brad brought two quotes for an energy audit of the Town Garage. After discussion, it was decided to proceed with the audit proposal from Phillip Mulligan. Brad will contact him to set up the audit. We will ask for an audit without infrared imaging, but with a statement as to why we omitted that imaging, namely that it is clear where heat is escaping without the use of infrared.

Brad mentioned his interest in continuing to pursue a solar installation at the Town Hall, largely as a public demonstration of the use of solar. By using net metering, in combination with the Town Garage electric use and energy costs could be reduced. Ginny will get in touch with Howie Michaelson about doing a rough solar system design and cost estimate. However, Anne recommended this be treated as a separate project from the larger energy efficiency improvements on the two buildings. Anne also said we might get some funding for this through the Clean Energy Development Fund's Small Scale Renewable Energy Incentive program. www.nerc-vt.org

Laurie will talk to the USDA about their Community Facilities Loans and Grants to fund solar work and other possibilities. Dan worked with the USDA system to fund the Town Hall Piazza project, so he is already familiar with their system. For more information on their program, go to www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp.htm

The possibility of including the Volunteer Fire Dept. stations in the overall energy improvements has been dropped, chiefly due to lack of interest at the Fire Dept. They do not see energy use as a problem at the stations.

Anne said she's concerned that the ARRA funds come with too many strings, including weekly payroll reports. At some point, we will want to meet with the Town Treasurer to go over the requirements that might be added to her work.

The State Historic Preservation Officer must certify that any building we work on is not on the State Historic Register. Ginny will contact him/her to get that certification.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Next meeting is November 30th at 7 pm.