Energy Committee Agenda Minutes

9/13/18

Present: Vance Bell, Dawn Bower, Bill Dunkel, Tom Johnson

The committee voted unanimously to participate in Efficiency Vermont’s Button Up Vermont Hero program this fall. We reviewed the terms of the program, which are as follows:

Hero Program

* Town commits to a Kick Off event and one other activity (tabling, etc.)
* EV assigns contractors who attend kickoff and provides free promotional materials and weatherization products to distribute
* EV pays cost of a newspaper ad and helps with social media publicity
* People who sign up receive a free energy audit in return for providing information about home energy usage
* Customer gets to choose contractor to work with
* EV provides materials on Heat Saver Loans and Weatherization assistance
* Follow up via e-mail or phone call from Energy Committee to participating townsfolk by early January

Bill will fill out the sign up form for the program by Monday, September 17, and will get information about publicity.

The committee prefers the following dates, in order of priority, for our kickoff event:

1) Monday, October 29

2) Thursday, November 8

3) Tuesday, October 23

Vance will check to see if the school is available in the evening from 6:30 – 8:30 PM on the above dates. Once a date has been selected, we may check with neighboring towns to see if they wish to co-sponsor the kickoff event. We will put an article in the next edition of the *News & Notes*, if the kickoff occurs after the newsletter’s next distribution date. Bill will check on the dates and locations of Efficiency Vermont workshops about the Hero program. Vance will check with the West Townshend Country Store to see if we can have a table about the Button Up Hero program at a Friday evening farmers market this fall.

There was a brief update and discussion about the town’s Enhanced Energy Plan. The Select Board has scheduled a public hearing on the plan for Monday, October 1, at 6:30PM in the Town Office. Members of the Energy Committee and the Planning Commission are urged to attend. Once the Select Board approves the plan it will be submitted to the Windham Regional Commission, which will decide if the plan conforms to the Regional Energy Plan and Act 174. If the WRC approves the plan, Windham will receive “substantial deference” in any future Public Utility Commission hearings related to energy projects in our town.

The Planning Commission has requested that the Energy Committee follow up on the following suggestions that were made at its July 11th public hearing on the Enhanced Energy Plan:

 1) Explore the possibility of creating purchasing cooperatives for heating oil and weatherization services/materials

 2) Explore creating incentives, including possible tax rebates, for homeowners who take steps to improve energy efficiency

At future meetings the Energy Committee also will review other Action Steps in the Enhanced Energy Plan and see which specific ones we need to follow up on.

The next meeting of the Energy Committee will be held on Thursday, Oct. 18, at 4:30PM in the Town Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Dunkel