**IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM BILL DUNKEL, ENERGY COMMISSION CHAIR**

**WINDOW DRESSERS, A NON-PROFIT, OFFERS INEXPENSIVE INTERIOR STORM WINDOWS**

If it is difficult and expensive to heat your home in cold weather because you have drafty windows, this article may be helpful. Window Dressers, a non-profit organization based in Maine, produces custom-fitted interior storm windows, made of wood and heavy plastic, which are air-tight, attractive and very inexpensive.

At Town Meeting in March of 2020, I spoke briefly about Window Dressers and held up a sample window. Several people expressed immediate interest in ordering windows and participating in a community build to produce them. Then the pandemic hit, and Window Dressers had to suspend its program for the 2020-21 heating season. Recently, however, the Window Dressers Board of Directors announced that they are resuming their program for 2021-22. The Energy Committee is trying to gauge whether there is enough interest among Windham residents to justify participation in the program.

If we decide to participate, here’s how the program will work. Window Dressers will train a few local volunteers this summer in how to use a laser tool to precisely measure windows. The measurements will be sent to a Window Dressers hub in Maine, where their personnel will custom cut and label the pieces of each window frame. The frames, plastic, special tools and even assembly tables will be delivered in October or November to a location in Windham (or perhaps to a neighboring town, if we jointly collaborate). Over the course of several days, local volunteers will assemble the windows using a five or six step assembly line process that Window Dressers has perfected over the years. The tasks are easy to perform, require no special skill or advanced training, and no power tools are used other than a simple hand drill. A community sponsored build brings people together, and makes it possible to produce windows for as little as $30, $40, or $50 for small, medium or large sizes, respectively. Low income families may be able to purchase windows at a fraction of those prices. Much more information, including a price list and videos, can be found on the Window Dressers website: www.windowdressers.org .

The Windham Energy Committee must decide within the next month or two, at the latest, if there
is sufficient interest in town for us to commit to participating in this program. If you are interested in having windows made for your home, or if you have questions, or need more information, please contact me or any member of the energy committee.

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Other Energy Committee Members are: Dawn Bower, Vance Bell, Tom Johnson, Michael Simonds.