

**Moretown Energy Committee meeting
Thursday, February 6th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Moretown Elementary School Library.**

Minutes

The meeting started at 6:40. In attendance were committee members: Jay Pilliod, Karen Horn, Steve Sharp, Jonathan Siegel and Jerry Cassels (joined later).

Dates for the next several meetings were established. The Energy Committee will next meet on Wednesday, 2/19, 6:30 at the school library and on the 2nd and 4th Wed of each month after that (3/12, 3/26, etc).

Action item: Jay to call Pam to reserve the school library for these dates. *(complete)*

1. Workshop on Tuesday (2/11) to gather input to the energy section of the Town Plan

Notes: We discussed how best to get the word out for the workshop. It was agreed to use Front Porch Forum with another posting right before the meeting and possibly to post some signs around town. The Valley Reporter had already been provided a press release. Not sure if it made it in the paper or not.

Action Items: Jay posted in FPF and sent out a reminder email to the larger Moretown email group. Karen posted some signs. *(Complete)*

2. Planning for an Energy Fair this Spring

- a. **Can we partner with PTN?**
- b. **What are possible dates?**
- c. **Options for combining with other events to increase draw**
- d. **Grants to help fund it?**
- e. **Planning next steps**

Notes: We discussed the Moretown Energy Fair being proposed for this Spring. One concern raised is we don't want to compete with other energy fairs in the area, in particular the LEAP Energy Fair which is planned for April 5th from 9 – 3 at Crossett Brook Middle School, Duxbury. This is the a big event with over 70 exhibits and about 700 attendees and considered one of the largest energy fairs in the state (go to www.waterburyleap.org/events.php for more detail) . The group agreed that we should help promote the LEAP event and encourage Moretown residents to attend. It was discussed whether we should have a booth and what information we might provide. *(This should be on 2/19 agenda to discuss and decide and whether it is still possible to register as an exhibitor)*

In addition we discussed that there still could be value in having a Moretown specific event. This could be intentionally different from the LEAP event by:

- Holding it later in the spring (like June)
- A smaller scale and more “hands-on”
- More kid friendly – partner with school and PTN to engage younger audience
- Increase awareness in the town of energy issues and the committee’s work
- Possibly recruit more involvement in town energy related topics
- Combine with other Moretown specific groups like our “freshies” Farmer’s Market
- Combine with a “Renewables Tour” of Moretown to visit homes that have installed solar and other energy saving investments (possibly rent the Alpine Bus)
- Offer giveaways to increase participation – ideas included: Free LED or CFL bulbs, Free Efficiency Kits from Efficiency Vermont, discounts on energy audits
- Have good food, good music, get people together on a beautiful (hopefully) Spring day
- Tentative Proposed date: Saturday, June 7th (*still to be confirmed*)

Action Items:

Jay to call Duane to discuss partnering with the school:

- Does the date work?
- Can we use the school building and grounds for the event (mostly outdoors)?
- Will the school & PTN partner with us on the event to make it more community focused?
- Is there interest in linking this with Moretown School joining Efficiency Vermont’s Project Green School or Whole School Energy Challenge and linking it with this event?
- Interest in a demo solar project at the school that could be showcased at the event

Jay to contact the lead for Community Energy at Efficiency Vermont to find out about possible grants for the Energy Fair.

3. Coordination with the school and town on a community solar project

- a. Update on school activities
- b. Feedback from select board

Notes: Jay shared that the select board is interested in having the energy committee investigate the feasibility of a community scale solar PV installation at the town/school land that could provide power to the new town offices and/or school. This solar project could possibly be combined with the town offices or separate. Crossett Brook just installed a system with SunCommon. Some schools have signed up for leasing agreements that don’t cost the school any money, reduce their current electric costs by 10%, and power the school renewably with solar power through a net-metering agreement. Need to investigate this further.

Action Items: Jay to contact Duane to see if the school would be interested in having the energy committee investigate possible solar project options. I could also attend a school board meeting if needed (after town meeting) to discuss the idea with them.

4. Energy Committee involvement/input on the new Town Office project

- a. Feedback from Select Board

Notes: The select board asked the energy committee to become involved with the town office building committee to provide support on the energy related aspects of the project which is trying to achieve a “Net-Zero” ready approach. This implies a very energy efficient building that could be powered now (or in the future) with on-site renewable power (usually in the form of solar PV).

Action Item: Jay to find out who is leading the building committee and attend a future meeting.

5. Review of past audits of town buildings and next steps

Notes: It was raised that we should investigate whether any information raised in the audit reports remains to be followed up on that could save energy in these town buildings that were audited. It was raised that there may not be any opportunity for savings but it would be worth at least following up on the audits that were completed.

Action Item:

Jay to review the audit reports and discuss the operators of each as to what has been installed and what remains to be done. Any resulting recommendations could be brought before the select board for consideration.

6. Creative ideas for energy related outreach opportunities.

Notes: Not discussed beyond the focus on the Energy Fair.

7. Getting the word out to the community on free Energy Saving Kits now available from Efficiency Vermont.

Notes: Efficiency Vermont is working with Energy Committees across Vermont to raise awareness of energy saving opportunities. As part of this outreach and education effort, Efficiency Vermont is offering **FREE Energy Saving Kits** to any resident in Vermont who wants one (one per household). The Kit shows you easy ways to use energy more efficiently in your own home, and gives you free products and tips to help you start saving today.

Each kit includes

- 1 regular compact fluorescent light bulb
- 1 three-way compact fluorescent light bulb
- 1 bathroom faucet aerator
- 1 \$50 rebate application for purchase of a qualified energy-efficient refrigerator
- 1 Advanced Power Strip
- 1 “How to Use an Advanced Power Strip” DVD
- 1 reminder magnet to Wash in Cold Water
- 1 Quick Start guide full of tips and checklists to help you save energy in your

To receive a free Energy Savings Kit, go online to www.encyvermont.com/energysavingskit, or call Customer Support at 888-921-5990.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.