

Regional Energy Committee - Meeting Notes
January 12, 2010
NRPC Office - 7-9pm

Attendees

Roger Lindala, Bakersfield
Bob Buerman, South Hero
Melissa Wells, Richford
Kathy Lavoie, Swanton Town
Guy Palardy, Alburgh
Barclay Morris, Grand Isle
David Leslie, Grand Isle
Suzanna Brown, Georgia
Skip Taylor, Fairfax
Andrea Baderstadt

Welcome and Introductions

Deb Perry welcomed everyone. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and sign in.

Grant Updates

Energy Grants to NRPC: The NRPC now has a signed contract with the US Department of Energy (DOE) for \$195,600. Our proposed workplan has been accepted by the VT Department of Public Service (DPS) and we are awaiting a contract for \$80,000.

Summary of Municipal energy grant proposed projects. The VT DPS is currently offering grants to municipalities. Several municipalities and schools in the region applied for grants up to \$50,000 for energy efficiency building improvements or the installation of energy efficient streetlighting. The application is a two part process and the following projects have been approved to proceed to the second step:

- **Bakersfield-** Energy Efficiency Retrofits for Town Hall
- **Georgia-** Energy Efficiency Retrofits for Town Office, Library, and Highway Garage, Streetlighting
- **Isle La Motte-** Energy Efficiency Retrofits for Town Hall
- **St. Albans City-** Energy Efficiency Retrofits for City Hall, Streetlighting
- **Swanton Village-** Energy Efficiency Retrofits for Municipal Complex, Energy Efficient Streetlighting
- **City of St. Albans -** Streetlighting
- **Highgate-** Energy Efficiency Retrofits
- **BFA Fairfax-** Energy Efficiency Retrofits and Streetlighting
- **St. Albans City School-** Energy Efficiency Retrofits
- **St. Albans town Educational Center-** Streetlighting
- **Highgate Elementary –** Streetlighting
- **MVU-** Streetlighting
- **Swanton School-** Streetlighting
- **Georgia Elementary and Middle School –** Streetlighting
- **Folsom Educational and Community Center –** Streetlighting

NRPC Energy webpage

Deb will begin posting meeting notes, presentations, and other relevant materials at <http://www.nrpcvt.com/energy.html>. Deb get the NRPC site listed on the VECAN website.

Energy Audits for Municipal Buildings

- The first grant-funded project that the NRPC needs to launch is conducting energy audits in 20-30 publicly-owned buildings in the region.
- Deb outlines the proposed schedule for accomplishing this project:
 - **Late January:** Provide each municipality with introductory information and building nomination form
 - **February 28th:** Nomination forms due
 - **March 9th:** Committee meets to review and rank nominated buildings
 - **End of March:** Release Request for Proposals for auditors
 - **April:** Select auditor(s)
 - **April- August:** Complete audits, receive reports
 - **June:** Committee meets for mid-project update and to begin planning streetlighting projects
- The Committee discussed using the EVT's Building Energy Performance form as a "nomination form." These would be sent to every town with an introductory letter and they would return a form for each building they want to nominate. The committee suggests the following changes to the form:
 - ask for the type of heating system, not just the fuel
 - allow them to attach a list of light fixtures if that's easier
 - bring the question "have you had the building audited" to the top of the form
 - ask for photos or a sketch of the structure
 - ask if the community has plans to replace or otherwise improve the building.
- An introductory memo would explain what an audit is and provide guidance for how to select an appropriate building. It will clarify that the building must be owned by the municipality and cannot be a school (because there is already a free audit program for schools).
- If a town nominates more than one building, they should be asked to prioritize them. The committee may disagree with this prioritization. Deb can work with the town to help decide which building would make the most sense.
- The committee will meet in March to rank the nominations. Ranking criteria could include energy use per square foot, the number of people using the building, the potential savings, and other public impacts. The committee may want to make sure different types of buildings are included and to consider the public education value of a project. The committee may also need to include some straightforward projects and may not be able to afford 20 audits on complicated buildings.
- The nomination form can be made available as a pdf file on the NRPC website.
- The memo and nomination form will be sent to the Selectboard with a copy to the regional energy committee representative and the planning commission chair
- Barclay Morris shows the committee the Grand Isle Needs Assessment and discusses the value of the document in helping to identify which buildings should be prioritized. Deb will post this document on the NRPC's energy webpage.
- Skip Taylor reports that Fairfax has moved forward on their own to get an energy audit of their Town Office. He will provide Deb a copy of the report to post on the NRPC website. Deb will also look for case studies of municipal buildings that have gone through the audit process and implemented energy efficiency measures.

Topics for Future Meetings

- The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 9th at 7pm. The Committee will discuss other items in the grant workplans and issues related to regional energy planning. Deb will provide an update and schedule of the grant tasks.