

Joint Thetford Energy Committee Meeting DRAFT MINUTES
January 5, 2022, 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82334219762>

Meeting ID: 823 3421 9762; Passcode: 281463

By Phone: +1 646 558 8656

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JTEC Present: Alice Stewart, Nolan Riegler, Chuck Cole, Erica Ko, Stephanie Daniels, Mary Bryant

Guests Present: Bob Walker, Weston Martin

Call to order: 6:15 pm

6:15 Review and Approve November 3, 2022 and December 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Minutes Available Here:

<https://www.thetfordvt.gov/community/meeting-minutes/-folder-150>

November notes approved

December notes were not available on website, and will be reviewed and approved in February

ACTION: Stephanie to contact Martie about why minutes are not showing up on website

6:10 New Business

6:15 IREC Update

Erica

- Have possible candidate that they are making an offer, he seems knowledgeable, grew up in Randolph and seems hopeful
- Met with legislators in 2 meetings to discuss compliance pathways for municipalities, they are open and trying to understand who would be interested to propose a bill, will take time as legislature gets going

Chuck

- Climate Guidelines group – focus on getting website going, for materials to be shared with other Energy Committees (recommended by Geoff)
- Next meeting unknown

ACTION: Erica will check with Linda Gray on Climate Guidelines group meeting

6:30 Event Planning for 2023 (Including Solar Outreach)

- Investor / owner controls the array, if we want to have influence we need to work with them
- Someone has to do the administration for the array to pay for the credits, which will not be done by Norwich Solar or GMP. This needs to be addressed if we want to influence the way the credits are managed for the array.

- Erica spoke with Bob Walker to see if Twin Pines or Capstone might be able to manage this
- Geoff also mentioned another organization

Weston

- Huge admin burden, esp if we're talking this scale array ~500KW array with 100+ low income consumers
- Ideally we would find someone who could build a smaller array ~150KW
- There's always a lag in payments from GMP of min 30 days but possibly 60 days
- NY has a better system, but VT program is a bit far behind in this aspect of making low income arrays possible and feasible
 - SunCommon operates in NY, and they might know
- Eg. An account they have in Rutland of a Section 8 house with 8 accounts, and the building managers bill the tenants.
- It would be an ONM contract, and the owner would hire a company to do the billing
- There is significant funds out there for investment
- Rural Edge is another low income development company we could go to

Nolan

- Norwich Solar might do hire the billing, and have all of the control. But ideally the town would have some control and thus have to bring some of the investment to Norwich Solar.
- Rate for new RECs, if approved, will be ideally a blended rate unless the PUC treats it as a new array. That is the question for the PUC hearing.

Erica

- Having multiple owners might be more complex, easiest path would be find an investor to put up the \$1.5 million investment

Bob

- Norwich Solar would be responsible for the ONM contract for maintenance
- Does it make sense to approach Twin Pines and Capstone until we hear about Brattleboro Solar on the billing?

Alice

- Is Twin Pines working in other IREC towns?

ACTION:

- *Weston will talk with a Brattleboro Solar to see if they would be interested in handling the billing for the expansion*
- *All: Rest of the TECC should be looking for investors, and sign up low income consumers soon; and we can have a town meeting booth*
- *Erica: Follow up with Geoff on language for outreach*
- *Nolan: Plan an in-person event to create interest in signing people up for the array*
- *Bob: will follow up with Molly at VLS about what is in the IRA that might help*
- *Mary – talk with Nolan before he talks to Twin Pines about some ideas*
- *Nolan: will start the conversation with Twin Pines and Capstone on administrative role, and ask if they work in other IREC towns*

Other Event ideas

Webinar / In person on Battery Back ups

- Share on battery back-up eg. Tesla Power walls, have owners share their experiences
- GMP and /or Efficiency VT as panelists
- Possibly do a webinar and then an open house to visit people's batteries
- Stuart Blood cars are going to be the battery storage at home – could we include that in a discussion?
- Chuck, Alice Stephanie subcommittee on this event

Other Topics

- Heat pump hot water heaters
- We could have a workshop on what's in the IRA?

Town Meeting – Mar 4

- How do we reserve a table?

Window Dressers

- January 19 local coordinators workshop/training
- Norwich/Hanover willing for us to work with them
- If we can get enough volunteers, would be good to do here in Thetford
- Bob, Weston, Stephanie get together to form subcommittee and decide whether we can do a build in Thetford

Event ACTIONS:

- Stephanie to call Efficiency VT and GMP about a webinar on backup batteries
- Talk to Tom about reaching out to listserve to find battery owners
- Mary will find out where Town Meeting is and how we reserve a table
- Bob will post on the listserve to get more Window Dressers
- Stephanie, Bob, Weston to discuss

7:20 Live Meeting Planning

In person meeting for next meeting and ongoing

- Nolan will open Town Hall Feb 2 meeting, but will be out of town so someone else needs to open for March meeting
- Nolan needs to check with Martie on opening Town Hall

7:25 Approve Town Report

Nolan will submit with everyone's changes

7:26 Committee Charge and new member

- submitted to the SB, when will the SB consider it?

ACTIONS:

- Nolan will resend the charge request, and attend Monday meeting
- Mary will check if the SB has approved, and get on Monday meeting

Future Meeting Topics

Decision making criteria for efficiency investment (Marc Chabot)

Next Meeting February 2, 2022 In Person Option at Town Hall

Adjourn 7:30 pm