

Marshfield ECCC/Plainfield Energy Group  
Notes of July 2, 2012 Meeting  
By: RIP

Attending: John Morris, Nick Seifert, Faeterri Silver, Bob Atchinson, Ed Hutchinson, Lawrence Black, Anne Miller, Rich Phillips

Convene: 7:15 PM

Adjourn: 8:35 PM

Business:

- 1) Approved minutes of April, May and June meetings subject small edits presented by Anne
- 2) Solar at OSC:
  - a. Anne Ed and Rich met as a subcommittee to discuss how to proceed with the project. A memo of that of that meeting is copied below and was discussed. It generally provides the agreed direction of the project.
  - b. We decided to prepare the RFQ before Rich leaves on vacation but not to issue it until October when Rich returns. The RFQ will be ready for discussion at our August meeting
  - c. The annual power use at OSC is about 36,000 Kwhrs and with the Fire Station and the Town Garage the use is about 48,000. We decided to seek bids for systems sized for 10 Kw and 20 Kw or about 12,000 and 24,000 Kwhrs/year. Generally we are not looking to place panels on the new roof but that question is open.
  - d. We will require a complete system description with each proposal and will conduct a payback analysis for each of the better proposals and discuss the top proposals with the Selectboard leading to selection and refinement of a proposal for Town Meeting.
- 3) PACE: Rich discussed the timing of the Selectboard. They want to do this during Town Meeting 2013 so there is an opportunity for questions and answers by people who will actually vote--- a more informed vote. We need to publicize this vote and try to get people lined up ahead of time, if possible, and have them support passage be a first group through the process.
- 4) Twinfield: Rich reported that the elementary wing roof project is well underway with about 5.5" of insulation board at about R 7/inch has been placed, the eaves sealed with foam and the gable ends insulated with foam. Bob questioned whether that insulation met the new Commercial Code requirements. Apparently, it does not but it's a little late.  
A big remaining weatherization issue is the high school eaves. We will be pushing to include this in next year's budget.
- 5) Volunteers: Not all volunteers from the Town Meeting survey have been contacted. Rich will contact all of them by an introductory e-mail (Faeterri, Anne and Dan have contacted some of their list). We will develop an e-mail list and keep them up to date on our activities see if any would be contacts in their areas for the neighborhood groups.
- 6) Smart Meters: Faeterri asked whether one must have a smart meter to have net metering. The answer is no
- 7) Green Building (new homes): Nick raised the question if we should be doing better getting energy information to persons seeking to build a new home in Marshfield. We have provided Bob Light (zoning administrator) with pamphlets to pass out several years ago but the quantity is surely exhausted. We talked about ways to go about encouraging homeowners to be energy wise in new buildings. Lawrence expressed a very strong opinion against any "requirements" to help achieve this end. It was suggested we get information on what other towns do but nobody offered to do that. Rich will talk to Dina Bookmeyer-Baker about non-regulatory packets etc.
- 8) Meeting Coordination (September and October): With Rich gone, Nick will coordinate the September meeting and Bob the October meeting

Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee  
Plainfield Energy Group  
Notes of Solar Subcommittee Meeting  
6/27/12

Ed Hutchinson, Anne Miller and Rich Phillips meet on 6/27/12 to develop a workplan for development of a proposal for solar PV at OSC to be voted at the 2013 town meeting. This subcommittee will also deal with a potential proposal for solar PV at Twinfield, but did not address this at the meeting. We met from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Rich's house

## Workplan Solar at OSC

- 1) Verify the concept of this net metering system with Efficiency Vermont, Andy Perchlik (DPS), and Green Mountain Power. We will be using just the OSC connection for the net metering--- not the garage or fire station. Gather incentive information for use later.
- 2) Size the system. Gather the power use records of the three municipal buildings. Select a couple of sizes to get cost quotes. Consider 10 Kw as the minimum?
- 3) Select three vendors to get preliminary designs and cost quotes for two different size systems, information on applicable, available incentives, financing options available from the company etc.
  - a. Designs will include location of panels, inverters and meters, proposed panel support structure, number and type of panels and inverters, connections to the existing power distribution grid and all other information to fully describe the design.
  - b. Proposals are to include the application for and receipt of the Certificate of Public Good
  - c. Possible vendors: Independent Power, AER (Trackers),?
- 4) Upon receipt of the proposals, verify the validity and technical adequacy of the information provided with regulatory and incentive agencies and experts.
- 5) Develop the payback analysis for each proposal and size. Incorporate all incentives that are clearly available, use current interest rates for local share borrowing and use any available governmental projection of power cost increases
- 6) Select one or two options in conjunction with the Selectboard for the final steps of the payback analysis. This will result in a year-by-year projection of expense and savings throughout the period till all costs are recovered through savings. This final step will be similar to the final presentation used for the pellet boiler analysis. Full reference checks and discussion with and visits to previous customers will be completed for the finalists.
- 7) The Selectboard tentatively selects a proposal subject to negotiation of any changes needed and approval of the Funding at Town Meeting 2013.
- 8) If funds are approved, the Selectboard signs the proposal (amended as necessary) and construction begins.

We generally agreed with this draft workplan except limiting the proposers to three as discussed below. Some of our tentative plan implementation decisions are as follows:

- 1) The annual Kwhrs of use at OSC is 36,000 and with the Fire Station and Garage the number is about 48,000. Each Kw of solar capacity generates about 1200 Kwhrs annually. To meet the annual demand of OSC we would need to install 30 Kw of solar. Given the constraints of the lot while staying out of the floodplain and away from significant shadowing and the costs we suggest getting quotes on 10 and a 20 Kw system and lay out the system for future expansion if the site will allow
- 2) We will include new owner of Jim Grundy's company in any solicitation
- 3) We will either advertise the project in the paper or just mail the request for proposals to the Certified installers on the REV list. Subsequently, the Selectboard has agreed with just sending to the list. We will not limit the proposers to three as suggested above.
- 4) Rich will be gone from August 7<sup>th</sup> to about October 15<sup>th</sup>. We tentatively decided that we would not advertise while he is away. Rich will prepare the RFP before he leaves and it will be issued just before he returns so Rich could handle the on-site meeting for proposers and any questions they have. The proposal response time is expected to be 3 weeks. This will compress the time available to complete #4 through 7 above but it should be adequate if we don't sit on our hands.
- 5) Anne and Ed will continue to research whether there are additional funds available beyond the state incentives and make sure there are no hidden issues with the town proceeding with a net metering system like this.