

Notes of Energy Fair Debrief Meeting
October 8, 2008
By Rich Phillips

Attending: Bob Atchinson, Ed Hutchinson, John Morris, Anne Miller, Lawrence Black, Saul Gresser, Rich Aiken, Dan Chodorkoff, Rich Phillips:

Convene: 7:15, Adjourn: 8:45

Business:

What went well?

- 1) Lots of alternative vehicle drivers
- 2) Registration went well, most people there to learn how to save dollars, not so much to protect environment
- 3) Generally well attended, good job, wonderful time, exceeded expectations
- 4) Venders appeared happy, with lots of people visiting the tables, the barrel man sold barrels and solar panels. The organizations also had plenty of business at the tables. Lots of good information from venders and organizations.
- 5) The gym worked well for the venders; being spread out as they reduced interference between venders and between organizations
- 6) Great food! Leftovers went to the seal meals program and the Fall Foliage supper in Plainfield.
- 7) Good attendance in the weatherization (25) and solar sessions (15 to 20).
- 8) Lots of people tried out the alternative fueled vehicles
- 9) About 30 people visited at pellet stove demonstration
- 10) Great music at noon.
- 11) Sold 94 CFLs; Cabot, Marshfield and Plainfield are well over 4000CFLs with 5000 being the goal.

What could be improved?

- 1) Should have started later in the morning---few people at 9:00AM
- 2) Signage not good for alternative vehicle demonstration
- 3) Alternative transportation had a room without a screen--- had to move to a different room. Need better coordination ahead of time to prevent these problems
- 4) We should have advertised the sessions schedule ahead of time so people could know the total makeup of the day and decide which sessions to attend. This was especially necessary using the term fair that does not normally include scheduled sessions. The schedule should have been on the posters and on the Energy Committee website.
- 5) Little attendance in the peak oil, pellet stove, help with energy cost and shared transportation sessions. Maybe we had too many choices for each time slot considering the number of people attending the sessions. The assistance programs indicated they had plenty of business at the tables if not in the sessions
- 6) Need break between sessions
- 7) The second weatherization session did not go as planned. It was intended to be an advanced session with a blower door demonstration but the people attending needed the basics so the content reverted close to the morning button-up session.
- 8) The article in the TA after the Fair focused only on the weatherization session instead of covering the vender display and other sessions.

Other business:

- 1) Rich will get the Registration Lists to John Morris and Sue with enter them in an Excel spreadsheet and send them out to the members so each town can see the people who attended and volunteered
- 2) It was suggested that we poll the vendors to see what they thought of the set up he traffic and whether they would come back again. No one was assigned this task
- 3) Ideas for future efforts:
 - a) Workshops on specific technologies or other energy topics.
 - b) Potentially setting a goal for solar hot water systems in the towns for 2009
 - c) Look into the workshops Bob Walker is putting together for the upper valley area as examples
 - d) Attend the VECAN networking meeting in December
- 4) Anne presented a potential approach for looking into bus service for the Rte#2 corridor that she has discussed with GMTA and CCTA. The proposal was to have the affected town Selectboards and Cabot Creamery meet together with GMTA, CCTA and AOT to discuss the desirability and process to implement bus service. First, we would need to meet with the Selectboards and provide them preliminary information so they can decide whether they want to participate in a joint meeting.

We decided we did not have enough clear information especially on funding to approach the Selectboards at this time. Apparently there is \$350,000 available statewide to fund new routes. Where the continued funding comes from wasn't clear. Apparently getting a new route up and running takes at least three years. Routes cost about \$150,000/year to operate and towns are responsible for 20% or \$30,000.

Bob and Anne will check into the program further and develop some talking points for meeting with the Selectboards. Bob expects to go ahead with contacting the Plainfield Selectboard. John suggested a survey of people's needs for a bus service. John and Anne will discuss some survey questions.

It was generally agreed we should pursue the Vanpool program promptly and look further at the bus idea over time.

- 5) REV Conference on 10/15/08, Fee \$150, but can visit booths Tuesday night for \$5 and all day Wednesday for \$25
- 6) It was decided that Marshfield and Plainfield will meet jointly next month and potentially jointly on some regular schedule to work on joint projects. The next meeting is November 10, 2008, 7:00PM at the Plainfield Town Clerk's Office meeting room. This is the second Monday of the month which has been Marshfield's meeting night

