

## **Energy Commission Minutes, January 28, 2013**

Present: Alex Girshick, Mike Altshul, James Finger, Chris Vials, Jean De Smet, Grace Adams

### **ACTION STEPS**

- help Kate with table at Romantic Willimantic Chocolate Festival (Feb 9)
- get people to Mansfield workshop this Thursday
- re-establish webpage for Energy Commission on Town site (Chris)
- contact Robert Schmitt at CEFIA for info about literature and subsidies for roofing (Chris)
- be prepared to do outreach for Solarize CT unveiling event in early March

### **N2N/HES.**

- HES co-pay is possibly going up to \$100
- We still need to identify homes that need insulation – Mike: infrared camera is the only way to tell from exterior.
- Feb 9 – Romantic Willimantic Chocolate Festival, 11-3pm; we are invited to set up a table; Kate needs help

### **Solarize CT Update**

- solarize workshop on Mansfield on Thursday from 7-9pm @ Mansfield Public Library); Andy Bauer will be there; we can get word out (Jean's sending emails to her friends). CEFIA doesn't want us to go into too much depth, especially on prices
- currently, contractors are putting in to bid on solar work in Windham. On 2/8, Joe Gardner and Kate is representing us for the bidding, as well as Jenny Walton of Mansfield and one other Mansfield person; they will choose a contractor for our area, and once they do, the price range will be more clear
- Alex said he pays \$75/month for his system, plus \$16 to CL&P; now it's gone up a bit.
- Grace: is there anything for small investors who want to add a small solar system; or something for renters?
- Jean informed us of Sun Harvest (Willington, CT), a local company that is offering a emergency battery back-up for solar systems; is this an option that could be subsidized as well?
- Solarize CT want us (Mansfield/Windham) to do a big unveiling event sometime in early March; in the meantime, they seem to want us to get interested people lined up; Kate has been in contact with Mansfield; CEFIA has an idea of what it will look like and will help with the logistics; they'll send somebody out

- outreach for unveiling event: once we get the time scheduled: (a) each of us get 2-3 people to the meeting (b) flyers (c) tell the Willy Chronicle
- does CEFIA have any financing for roofing? Robert Schmitt is our contact at CEFIA; we can ask him such questions
- there were 40 people last fall for a solar meeting in Windham, so there is certainly promise

**Community Innovations Grant Program.** Tabled. Can't join until we're done with N2N

**CPACE.** James raised this. CPACE is a community based property assessment for commercial properties, run through CEFIA. It's a benefit assessment for financing energy improvements, which include more than just solar. The debt is transferrable to next owner; for example, property owners can get a loan for a new boiler for 20 years, even though they know they'll sell building in 3 years

- Windham is one of first towns in this program; how do we get people to sign up?  
James: they have to be secure enough to pay their bills
- No literature on the program yet; it's through CEFIA and is brand-new; we can't do any outreach until they get established

**OUTREACH:** Chris mentioned the need for a facebook page and a re-establishment of the town webpage, as we need a central clearinghouse for information; info on HES/N2N, Direct Energy, CPACE, Solarize CT should be all in one place that we can refer people to

Before future canvassing (combined for Solarize CT and HES), Mike could do GIS mapping and Doug Lary could help with demographic information

**Sewer Department.** The sewer department is now making fat oil/grease into bio-diesel. The bio-diesel company wants to come to our meeting and talk about it; we introduced the sewer department to the company initially