**Craftsbury Energy Committee**

Meeting Notes for Thursday, April 17, 2025, Craftsbury Town Hall

Present: Kevin Gregoire, Christina Finkelstein, Bill Day, Craig Taylor (on Zoom), Ned Houston, Alan Turnbull, Seth Bond, Jamie Milholland

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Minutes for the March meeting were approved with one correction: Kevin is Chair, not President, of the Energy Committee.

## Agenda Items

1. Firewood
   - Sterling students will split wood (that's been bucked by John Stoddart) on May 2.
   - Kevin has rented a firewood processing machine for May 14-16. Green Mountain Tech students will process wood Thursday and Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm. Ned will provide the tractor and Energy Committee members are welcome to pitch in.
   - The processor rental fee is $1,000 for 16 hours of running.

2. MERP
   - Doug Wells (State Project Manager) and Grace Weckesser (MERP grant coordinator) met with the MERP group to assess the MERP working group's progress and tour the Town Hall and Town Garage. Bill Chidsey joined. We reviewed Jared Waite's recommendations for correcting the north wall of Town Hall and assessment of the Town Hall roof for solar. Craig asked Doug about using MERP grant funds to address the north wall. Because that work is essential preparation for energy efficiency improvements, Doug did not see a problem.
   - Grace stated that, compared to other towns, Craftsbury is making good progress with MERP projects.
   - The basement cleanout is scheduled for April 26. Craig called for volunteers.

3. Window Inserts 2025
   - Craftsbury is approaching 45 households committed to 250-280 inserts.
   - Adding Albany, Glover, and Greensboro will bring it to approximately 455 inserts to build. Kevin has mapped out the Outdoor Center workspace and proposed build dates (October 31-November 10) and think it's all doable given sufficient volunteers.
   - Measuring will start the week of May 19.

4. Student Projects
   - Alan has approached Craftsbury Academy and Sterling College.
   - Sterling likes the idea. There is a small number of rising seniors this year.
   - The Academy has a school-wide coordinator for senior projects, and this is the time of year that advisors are getting rising seniors to firm up their projects.

5. Outreach
   - Can the EC contribute to Craftsbury University? Possible topics: Tech, home safety, efficient heating, renewable energy, etc.
   - Ned and Kevin reported on the Vermont Climate Action Plan strategy roundtable.
   - Kevin is making contact with the low-income heating assistance program.

6. Efficiency Vermont Conference
   - Craig attended. This year's program was centered around HVAC new tech: Heat pumps, new refrigerants, etc.
   - Besides the informative programs, it's a great networking opportunity. Craig met some potential contractors for MERP projects.

7. Grants
   - Kevin is working on.

8. Should the EC recruit a 9th member?
   - Suggestion to post in FPF.

9. Next Meeting
   - Thursday, May 15, 7:00pm, Craftsbury Town Hall and on Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. Notes submitted by Bill Day