

Northfield Energy Committee Minutes 11.29.18

Present: Susan O'Connor, Andrew Vernon, Annie Chappell, Judy Wagner, Jim Toth
Meeting called to order 5:34 pm

1. Opening thoughts: Susan suggests that we could address Global Warming issues with some kind of event at a later date.

2. School weatherization update: Jim and Susan

PVRS

- Weatherization is complete. Jim did a site visit for our report and is satisfied with the work. The following jobs are ready to be signed off and payment is due.
 - Air Barrier Solutions (ABS) air sealing with 2-part foam. They use quality assurance sheets and photos ID each locale for reporting.
 - Door seals are complete and now very well insulated. They will need to be checked periodically and may need replacement in the future.
- Rooftop motors have been upgraded and photographed for report.
- Motors and drives and de-stratification fans will be upgraded/installed over the Christmas break, by January 1, 2019. Jim is meeting with Palmieri Electric on December 17 to discuss the installation of the fans

NES: We have questions we need to answer before sending in the Scope of Work to FRCOG for the procurement process:

- Regarding weatherization, the conditions are not as initially represented. The ceilings are in good shape, rather than having plaster falling as represented. After a conversation with Ben Weil (CEE/UMass), Jim and Susan conclude that we can dense-pack the floor area by drilling small holes into the floor, and then hang rock wool bats below the floor in the ceiling areas above classrooms. In the old gym area to the far North, Jim suggests 14" of rock wool to achieve R48 insulation status. This job can be performed from below because of drop ceilings. The good news is that this strategy allows us to meet our goal of R48, while not needing to move storage out, nor need to build a storage platform.
- There are more than two passive air vents up through the attic, as initially reported. The question is can we cap them so we aren't losing warm air, without impacting air quality. The largest vent has a plenum, and opens up to the outside. Jim suggests that we should consult with an HVAC contractor to help determine best option.
- Susan notes that we have not been well served by the contractors who scoped the jobs, as the information wasn't always accurate, and didn't provide us with options that would avoid the time consuming and costly process of moving storage out and back in. Once the grant activities are complete, we should discuss this issue with Jim Barry and Jane Pfister at DOER and how small towns can get solid information about how to proceed. Judy agrees that we do not have the expertise or funding up front to do full evaluations of every system in buildings, and suggests that a good solution could be to have small towns apply for a Planning Grant to help us from the beginning of the process.
- Andrew notes that the South attic is still full of boxes of documents that should be moved to a safe location for review before the insulation job. He will contact Meghan (principal) about this.

- We need to meet with the Buildings Committee to talk about the window replacement and how they are planning and proceeding. Annie will contact Kathy Wright to invite the committee to a next meeting.

MOTION : Annie moves to adopt revised attic insulation/weatherization plan to blow in dense pack insulation and use rockwool bats above dropped ceiling to reach R48 without needing to move storage out. Judy seconds, all in favor.

3. Annual report update/Susan

The annual report is complete, and Susan had substantial help from Pat Smith at FRCOG. Susan suggests that we have FRCOG come to a future meeting to explain MEI data and help us analyze Annual Report data to inform future decision-making.

MOTION: for FRCOG to meet with the committee to help us better understand the data in the MEI data and Annual Report.

4. Outreach for new members

Andrew contacted Christine Copeland who will try to attend our next meeting in December. Annie contacted Mike LaBombard, Mitch Damon and Mary and Craig Hefner, but has not had responses yet.

Judy suggests that we have Max Marcus (Recorder) write a story about our work to date.

Next meeting dates: Dec 11, 13 or 18th and in January the 15th, depending on when Pat Smith can attend.

Meeting adjourned 7pm.