

## Charlotte Energy Committee

Meeting 5/14/14

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Attending: Kestrel, Rebecca, Bill, Catherine, David, Suzy, Jen, Gerald, also Fritz Tegatz and Matt Krasnow

Most of the meeting was a free-form discussion of the town library building, with some of these points as highlights:

- Roof is leaky and expensive to fix—roof does not serve as effective thermal barrier. We do not yet have a cost-benefit analysis, but will ask for that. Solutions for roof are complicated.

- Fritz: Hot water heater needs to go; roof needs plywood and foam. Together will cost something like 100K when we have only 35K. Getting the building to net zero will be even more. Hot water heater is too large for library's needs.

- Discussion on whether or not to do entire study (which has already been approved)—technology might change by the time we have the budget to implement. Jen explains that roadmap gives sense of what to do in what sequence, doesn't matter so much if technology changes.

- Library building was a gift to the town. Library board has not started fundraising for extension or anything; probably a long time in the future.

- Fritz questions whether we should do parts C (building model how bldg uses energy) and D (what measures are and quantify improvements).

- CEC should write an article for the Charlotte News once analysis of library is done to start getting public buy-in.

Jen: Motion to approve an additional \$400 for GWR Engineering to perform an analysis of HVAC options for potential library expansion. Approved unanimously.

- Bill: Presents the VGuage: electricity energy meter; low cost, small, fits in circuit panel, but an electrician has to install it, costs \$520. Idea is to use on a temporary basis to do energy use evaluations of town buildings. Bill will ask Efficiency Vermont if we can borrow or rent instead of buy one.

- Maybe EV can fund part of the library analysis.

- David: Went to Suncommon workshop on cold climate heat pumps at library in April; info at workshop wasn't accurate, presented pumps as solution, put one up in every room in your house and PV panels... They showed a spreadsheet re savings, but were not clear about what are good and bad situations for installing, that it's the solution no matter what the problem. They market it as a *solar* heat pump, which is misleading; retrofitting a house is not a one-size-fits-all but that's how it was presented; they don't want to make a technical presentation but still... David spoke w/ Jason Cadwell, Shelburne EC, so they are tipped off about the limitations of the Suncommon presentation.

- Regardless of Suncommon's flaws, there is a clear need for educating the public; GMP has cold climate heat pump rentals, which is a recipe for increasing load. Jen: we might consider developing a program w/ other energy committees to focus on reducing loads.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Foster