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Cape Vincent Community Renewables Working Group
April 15th, 6-8 pm

Present: Hester Chase, David LaMora, Chuck Ebbing, Nancy Madsen, Dennis McCarthy, Kathi McCarthy, Mary Hamilton, Cindy Grant, Frank Giaquinto, Chanda Lindsay.

On the agenda: Review of last meeting, review of research areas

- Reviewed notes from last meeting
 - At the last meeting, after prioritizing potential project areas, the group broke into committees to research the potential project areas. Each group looked into pros and cons, space needed, potential host sites and the net costs/benefits as well as any other pertinent information.
 - Solar/Wind: Hester Chase, Mary Hamilton, Dennis and Kathi McCarthy
 - Conservation: Cindy Grant, Mary Hamilton
 - Biomass: Dave Lamora, Mike Bell, Bryan Stumpf, Rob Aliasso, John Byrne
 - Digesters: Hester Chase, Don Bourquin
 - Waste to Energy: Rob Aliasso, Hester Chase
- The group decided that they would take as much time as needed with each topic rather than trying to get through all of the topics in one meeting.
- Hester- must be vigilant about unintended consequences of potential projects. Ensure that the true picture is told (does it really work? What is the real payback time & cost?). Group decided to review unintended consequences as a point of procedure.
- Discussed the effects of subsidies.
- Group would like to get more information on “smart grid”

Solar/Wind: (Mary, Hester, Dennis, Kathi)

- Vision- is it possible/feasible to expect small solar/wind on all homes?
- Important to understand power and energy creation
- Many companies use assumptions which are based on averages
- Mary presented info on a number of turbines
 - Enviro Energies- made in Canada, magnets made in China
 - Honeywell- mfd in Ontario, some parts made in China. They have info on zoning.
 - Wind Energy 7, LLC
 - Windspire
 - Cleanfield
 - Everwind
- Discussion of how to express the true value of renewable not just the dollar value.

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- Home based renewables like solar and wind considered “accessory structures” by zoning.
- Some installers recommend solar and wind together
- Pricing- would there be a bulk discount if multiple community members installed?
- Hudson Valley Clean Energy- solar parties
- Dennis presented info on Photovoltaics (handout)
 - Looked at what is practical, not exotic
 - Spoke with Bud Drescher, Warner Energy from Syr. (Paul DeLima). They hope to have a demo site w/ thin film solar. Would be willing to do a presentation or have group come down for a visit.
 - Not cost effective w/o subsidies
 - Considerations: tilt angle, orientation to sun, local weather conditions, days of sun
 - Storage becomes expensive- rec. feed into grid if possible
 - www.roofray.com
 - Discussion of retail rate vs. avoided cost rate- Hester will research
- Hester spoke w/ John McConnell of Electrical Unions Assoc.

Conservation

- Cindy discussed Conservation
 - Conservation ties into all considerations for renewable
 - Smart switches – cut down on “vampire power use” which can be 20% of bill
 - Discussed importance of reviewing home energy bill, home energy audits
 - Education on use and management is critical
 - Local Foods and Buy Local encourage energy conservation
 - Thousand Islands Young Leaders Org. has a go green effort
 - Work as individuals first and bring knowledge, information and motivation to the wider community

Wrap Up

- Still need to finish solar and wind discussions and cover biomass and digesters.
- Individual committee members have detailed information about their research area.
- Next meeting, May 20, 6-8 pm.

Proposed Agenda:

- Review previous meeting and any questions, comments, info that has come up since
- Finish Solar and Wind discussion
- Biomass (if we get to it)
- Digesters (if we get to it)
- Wrap Up/Goals

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