

Woodstock Renewable Heat project - Update, October 4, 2018

Working group members: Kirk Richey, Eric Werthmam, Julie Last, Dermot McGuign

On Friday July 20th Kirk Richey and Dermot McGuigan spoke by conference call with Sue Dougherty of NYSERDA, Katherine Nadeau and Sam Wright of Catskill Mountainkeeper and Melissa Everett of Sustainable Hudson Valley.

The call was initiated by Scott Smith of NYSERDA following Dermot's June 26 meeting in the NYC office of NYSERDA with the Clean Heating and Cooling team. The meeting included the team leader, Donovan Gordon, Andre Davis, an intern (who asked great questions), together with Scott Smith and Sue Dougherty and a third person by phone. John Joshi was invited but could not attend due to illness, which was regrettable as he has good insights. The meeting, which lasted an hour and half, was focused on the Woodstock renewable district heating project for much of the first hour and then on the broad concept of recycled and renewable energy, together with thermal storage, on district or neighborhood scale.

The NYSERDA meeting followed a presentation Dermot gave on renewable and recycled district energy in general and the Woodstock project specifically. The presentation was made at the two day "Renewable Heating and Cooling Workshop" in Saratoga Springs, June 18 & 19, organized by NEEP and RTA. NEEP is the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership and RTA is the Renewable Thermal Alliance. NYSERDA was very much present at the event and is a major supporter of the RTA.

Catskill Mountainkeeper and Sustainable Hudson Valley jointly received funding from NYSERDA under its Clean Heating and Cooling Community Campaigns Initiative, PON 3723. The funding is tied to outreach, education, and bulk procurement campaigns for clean heating and cooling (CH&C) technologies, in particular ground and air sourced heat pumps, for individual homes and buildings.

The NYSERDA initiative is focussed on single building solutions. It does not include networked community renewable district heating projects, such as the Woodstock project, as currently described on the WNYT website. That said, Sue Doherty from NYSERDA expressed positive sentiment towards the renewable and recycled district energy project. At some point, it is hoped, NYSERDA will include district heating and cooling systems in its ongoing spend of \$110 million in incentives for the clean heating and cooling sector.

Given that the NYSERDA program focusses exclusively on single building fossil fuel solutions, such as air or ground ('geothermal') heat pumps, the WNYT Energy Working group should consider both individual and community systems, and revisit the current project description. Ideally, we should assist the Town of Woodstock in securing sufficient funds, in grants, to determine the optimum solution for the proposed project area, individual home/facility solutions

or a community-wide project, and a hybrid of the two. Wood stoves are also used in some homes in the area.

We will look to work with both Catskill Mountainkeeper and Sustainable Hudson Valley as they present their project in the Woodstock area, and look for synergies with them towards fossil fuel free thermal energy for Woodstock, including the core hamlet.

For the record, the last meeting of the Energy Working Group was June 22nd at 4 PM at the office of New Yorkers for Clean Power on Broadway in Kingston. Present were, Elizabeth Broad from NYforCP, Kevin Smith and Maxanne Resnick from Woodstock Land Conservancy, Eric Worthman and Dermot McGuigan from WNYT. Kirk Richey emailed a conflicting appointment. Patty Goodwin was invited.

This report, submitted to the WNYT council follows the last report filed in April, 2018, which is posted on the WNYT website at:

<http://woodstocknytransition.org/category/working-groups/energy/>