



Center
for
Technology
Essex

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Advisory Board Meeting
Residential Building Technology
Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
10 Meadow Terrace, Essex Jct. ([MAP](#))

Invited / Attending:

Rich Gardner - ReMax North Professionals (The Gardner Group) - Attending
Tom Chase - Neagley & Chase Construction - Attending
Gina Catanzarita - Engelberth Construction - Attending
Scott Fraser - Green Mountain Power - Attending
Mathew Bruneau - CTE
John Wolf - CTE
Christopher Welch - CTE

Unable to Attend/ No Response:

Byron Furman - SD Ireland - No response
Dave Nichols - Chuck's Heating - No response
Rene Gagnon - Larson Gagnon & Sons - No Response
Ryan Critchlow - Paragon Construction - No Response
Seth Bortz - Rice Lumber - No Response
Kevin Daigle - Hegeman Electric - No Response
Rich Wright - CTE
John Dowman - CTE

Agenda

1. 9:00 am. Welcome
2. Introductions of Visitors and Staff
3. Building Residential review of school year 2020/21
 1. Student House Build Update - *(Chris W.) We opened up the discussion by talking about how the hybrid model has seemed to benefit student production on the jobsite but might haven't produced the in-depth theoretical comprehension that had been present in years past. This can be attributed to most students choosing to find and work a job during their remote learning days and remote work often goes undone until the end of the marking period. (Others) found that interesting but were not surprised either. (Rich G.) went into a short discussion on the state of the housing market and we set up a meeting to walk through the current house build to create a plan to get it on the market in the most efficient way possible.*

2. *Our next discussion topic was program numbers and future structure of the program due to available land etc. (Matt B.) re introduced the idea of structuring house retrofit projects in the community as being the way of the future. (Others.) agreed that there is a real need for people with that skills set especially in Vermont but questioned the feasibility from a financial and logistical standpoint. (Tom C&RichG.) brought up the ever changing vermont building code and talked about the states plan to move toward Net-Zero by the year 2025 was unrealistic. New energy codes are not reliable or attainable from a financial standpoint for basically any residential focused builder. Should our next house build follow those new guidelines or should we branch off?*
3. *Another topic that we visited was brought up by Rich G. The tiny house movement is still growing in VT but has been limited by physical land space. I explained that logistically we don't have the facilities to construct something like that and (Tom C.) brought up the idea of renting a local facility or garage that had the space to be able to pull something like that off. This will be revisited pending results from future discussions with administration and school officials.*
4. **Partnership Conversation Continued, Scholarships, jobs underserved students.** *-(Chris W.) brought up our previous discussion of creating student scholarships to try and entice students into the trades and break down some of the potential barriers that are in place for those that don't have access to transportation etc. We talked about students that are unable to participate in CO-OP opportunities due to not having their own transportation. Scott F. & Tom C. suggested creating partnerships with SSTA or local taxi companies to get students to their job locations (this will be explored in the future). (Gina C. & Tom C.) talked about helping to organize outside contractors or retired tradespeople to come in a champion the larger class sizes but also as a way to help get students interested in the trades. (Chris W.) brought up the possibility of creating a vetting process to allow this to happen within the school visitor / employee protocols. Finally we talked about what projects everyone had going on early next fall etc so we could get back to visiting job-sites. Everyone agreed that this would be a very beneficial way to gain further student interest and try the program structure into the community more.*

5. **Adjourn - Next Year** -- *Agreed to come together once more at the very end of year or early summer after hopeful sale of the house and to further discuss next year's class size and how to handle the volume of students on the jobsite safely.*