

Minutes

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Date: 04/9/12

Present: Paul Cameron, Peter Falion, Lester Humphreys, Ralph Meima, Anne Moore Odell, Bob Rueter, Andy Shepard, Kathleen White. Guests: Al Bartsch, George Harvey

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Call to Order, agenda review, Approval of February and March 2012 minutes</p>	<p>Praise given for good quality of minutes.</p>	<p>Minutes approved for both months</p>
<p>Check-in/Announcements</p>	<p>1. Sustainable Business awards: everyone has voted except 2 members. WSWMD/Carbon Harvest has 6, Marina: 6, Glenwood and WWHT:5. Need to break the tie to determine the 3rd winner. Votes cast for Glenwood:2 and WWHT: 3. 2. Regional Energy Committee meeting held 4/4/12 was good. 20 people representing 7 groups. Both presentations on Green Homes Tourist and Group Net Metering were good. 3. Paul went to 2nd meeting of the regional Energy Cluster, a professional group to promote renewable energy and green jobs in Windham county, Greenfield area, Keene and BF. Gary Goodemote, Guy Paine of SEVCA are the primary movers.</p>	<p>1. If Ralph and Glenn vote and it breaks the tie, that that vote carries. If their vote does not break the tie, then the vote we did today stands, with WWHT being the 3rd winner. Paul will let everyone know the outcome of the vote, and will arrange to have the awards presented at an upcoming selectboard meeting.</p>
<p>Subcommittees</p>	<p>1. PACE: Town attorney decided we would not need to vote yearly to authorize a PACE district, if everyone who takes a PACE loan agrees to be part of the district. We are delegating the taxing administration (not authority) to VEIC. All other 35 towns with PACE have elected to have VEIC collect the taxes and have had no problem. Bob Fisher thinks Brattleboro can vote it in during the special town meeting in June or July (date not yet set). 2. Renewables: a. SOVEREN is doing group net metering in Westminster, a 150 kw project. Actively looking for investors. Have 35 kw spoken for, so far. b. David McManus of Delta Energy Group wants to</p>	

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>investigate town facilities for their solar potential. Paul is working on setting up a meeting with him and Steve Barrett.</p> <p>3. Transportation: a. Way to Go Challenge is setting up informational sessions for employees of the businesses in the Roundtable. Anne would like to be involved in the Way to Go planning.</p> <p>b. Paul helped facilitate a Listening Session on April 1 at Elliot Street Cafe, a program of Fossil Fuel Freedom. Public was invited and discussed transportation problems, ideas, issues. Everyone spoke and generated a long list of ideas and issues. FFF will consolidate the ideas and come up with policy recommendations.</p> <p>4. Efficiency: a. Subcommittee identified 3 lighting level zones in town for streetlights. Maps were created by Jeff Nugent. Still need to decide which LED level for each zone. Will meet with Steve Barrett and get his approval and recommendations, then meet with Town Mgr and then Traffic Safety Committee. Will then roll out test neighborhood and get feedback. DPW has been removing 10-15 streetlights/year, so there are not too many more to be removed (based on audit of 100 lights by Paul and Bob, with only 5 candidates for removal). Huge potential for savings just by changing to LED and decreasing wattage in many areas.</p> <p>b. Reducing energy use in town buildings: Tuesday, April 10, 9 AM, Paul, Bob and Chuck Clerici will look at all 8 town buildings for opportunities. Anyone is welcome. High performance T-8 lights could save a lot. Heat and AC may be the bigger issue (vs electricity).</p>	<p>Will set Way to Go Planning meetings at 5 PM, and add Anne to sub-committee list.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>George Harvey is a Town Meeting Rep for District 3. He introduced a motion at town meeting that the selectboard be directed to undertake a study of successful renewable energy projects in Europe, especially Germany, by asking the appropriate committee to do this. The Energy Committee will be asked. George works at NEC, doing</p>	<p>George will email his report on renewable energy successes in Europe to Paul, to share with committee.</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>research. He has discovered many successes in Europe, where they have stopped spending on fossil fuels and created jobs, met 100% of their energy needs with biomass, wind, solar, even creating diesel oil from wood. The goal would be to educate town meeting reps and the public. The priority should be on education about weatherization--"with increased weatherization, there is a goldmine to be saved. How do we get people motivated?"</p> <p>Ralph informed us that Betty Frye of WSWMD board wants to work with BEC, as they move to become a bio-energy park. The state treasurer is promoting private activity bonds to provide significant capital for serious infrastructure.</p> <p>BEC should communicate with town reps regularly, so they are aware of what we're doing. Peter would like to see town adopt an energy policy. Paul: the town is developing an energy policy through the town plan; it can be used as an educational tool.</p> <p>Ralph is interested in creating a sub-committee to have conversation about community scale thermal systems to shift town away from fossil fuels. Bio-gas or Bio-mass. The new downtown campus will need heating. BTU is changing its mission to smaller scale projects. Ralph moved to create a subcommittee with BEC and other stakeholders with Ralph as chair. Motion seconded and approved. 1st meeting will be to define purpose, and give it a name. George Harvey volunteered to join subcommittee. Sign up sheet circulated.</p>	<p>New subcommittee will start by going to last Thursday of the month meeting at WSWMD. Will report back to BEC next month. Ralph will contact those who signed up to set a meeting date.</p>
<p>Next meeting</p>		<p>May 14, 2012, 5 PM</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action