

## Minutes

**Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee**

**Date: January 9, 2012**

**Present: Sarah Edwards, Paul Cameron, Lester Humphreys, Anne Moore Odell, Andy Shepard, Ralph Meima Guest: Paul Markowitz**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Approval of Dec. 12 minutes</b>		Minutes were approved.
<b>Announcements</b>	<p>1) Brattleboro Climate Protection's request to place their annual funding request on the Town Meeting agenda was approved by the Selectboard at their Jan. 3 meeting. Paul thanked all BEC members who attended the meeting or wrote support letters.</p> <p>2) Sarah reported on 3 bills that are being considered in the House Energy &amp; Natural Resources Committee: a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard bill (H. 468), a Net Metering bill that would open the 10-day expedited process to projects up to 10 KW in size, and an Integrated Solid Waste Management bill</p>	
<b>Guest Speaker – Paul Markowitz</b>	<p>Paul was recently hired as the Community Energy Program Manager for Efficiency Vermont. He has worked with community groups in VT over the past 3 years on projects such as the VT Community Energy Mobilization Project, Business Energy Ambassadors, and Button-Up Vermont workshops. Efficiency VT is looking to offer a range of turnkey projects to improve thermal efficiency in buildings – they provide the framework and energy committees implement. They are looking for creative ways to reach beyond the choir, raise awareness and motivate behavior through enhanced marketing. The state has set a goal of 80,000 homes weatherized by 2020. A project being considered is a Home Energy Weatherization Challenge. Towns would set a goal for a number of homes weatherized within a particular time frame. If a town met</p>	

	<p>its goal, it would receive a grant (5-10K), and the state winner would receive more. Eff. VT would offer programs to help towns achieve their goals. This program would target homeowners above the low-income level that SEVCA currently serves. Efficiency VT is also looking to focus on municipalities as a sector, including vehicle fleets. Committee members offered suggestions: ask energy committees to give summaries of achievements, consider biomass district heating, identify champions (preferably non-volunteer) that can work with energy committees, partner weatherization companies with nonprofits to achieve goals, market so that people see advantages of weatherization to their financial health, make it easier for people to obtain bank loans for weatherization work, set up a state weatherization fund through a fossil-fuel tax.</p>	
<p><b>Subcommittee reports</b></p>	<p><b>1) Efficiency:</b> The Town is replacing three high-pressure sodium lights downtown with LEDs – on Canal St. near the junction, and on Flat St. The Selectboard will discuss streetlighting at their next meeting on 1/17. Paul Markowitz reported that four towns in VT are turning off 30% of their lights – he will send the guidelines that Montpelier is using.</p> <p><b>2) PACE:</b> Paul and Bob will attend the 1/17 Selectboard meeting to ask the board to place a PACE article on the Town Meeting agenda. The Town Meeting will have to authorize PACE financing annually. Barb Sondag and Town Attorney Bob Fisher have questions about the money flow and how the program would be administered – Bob is working on getting answers.</p> <p><b>3) Renewables:</b> Paul is gathering information for the Green Homes Tourist site profiles. Subcommittee will meet to plan next steps on solar electric projects.</p> <p><b>4) Transportation:</b> Way To Go week is May 14-18. The Transportation Roundtable will meet Wednesday, 1/18 at BMH, with Ross MacDonald from VTtrans as guest speaker.</p>	

<b>Sustainable Business Awards</b>		Discussion postponed until next meeting – will be first on agenda.
<b>Next meeting</b>		<b>Monday, Feb. 13, 5 pm</b>