

Minutes: 07/16/2012

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Paul Cameron, Jason Cooper, Jed Leslie, Ralph Meima, Bob Rueter, Andy Shepard, Kathleen White

Topic	Discussion	Action
Agenda review and introductions	Welcomed new Energy Committee member Jed Leslie. He told us a little about himself: Has lived in Bratt 2 years, grew up in Shaftsbury, went to RPI, works in web applications, has a new baby and his personal interest is in solar energy. His father, Russ Leslie studied lighting and its effects on the brain.	
Announcements	1) Paul and Bob will present to selectboard on street lighting plan, Tuesday 7/17. 2) Walking audit is scheduled for July 19, 5:30-6:30 at Living Memorial Park.	
Minutes approval	1 change needed: Glenn is going off BEC in August, but will stay on Renewables subcommittee.	June 11, 2012 minutes approved with change, unanimously
Sub-Committee reports	Energy Efficiency: A. Changeover to LED is a 2 year process. EV will pay difference in cost of lights that haven't yet reached end of their life. Subcommittee walked pilot neighborhoods: High /Western Ave from Main to I-91; Cedar/Spruce/Myrtle/Sycamore; and Putney Rd from Eaton St to Technology Dr. Suggestions made for adding some lights in each area, and shifting the location of some lights. Spacing generally good. Paul sent suggestions to Steve Barrett who will be in touch with CVPS to get plan going. Discussion about feedback on streetlighting change. B. Met with Chuck Clerici, EV, June 25 re: Town Building walk thru for energy efficiency opportunities. He produced a 12 pg report with several recommendations for each building. Police and fire stations are due to be upgraded. Changes may be able to be incorporated into the renovations. Discussed Energy Fund, as in Wilmington's budget.	A. Press release will go to media 7/17, to inform residents about the plan. People with comments can call Steve Barrett or Paul Cameron. B. Paul will pass on final version of report to Barb Sondag and seek her perspective on whether any of these recommendations will be able to happen--politically and financially. C. Kathleen will attach list of what local banks are offering for energy efficiency, to the minutes.

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	<p>They got a \$50K line item and used it to do work and get grants. Could Brattleboro redirect streetlighting savings into an Energy Fund?</p> <p>Other: Could we put electric/propane "on demand" hot water heaters in town buildings? The units are expensive but with quick payback. No standby heat loss. Brattleboro does not have a building code for energy efficiency for new buildings or renovations. Paul talked to Brian Banning, zoning coordinator. Gave him brochures to give to contractors about requirements for efficiency, (even though they are not enforced).</p> <p>C. Kathleen reported on local banks that offer energy efficiency loans.</p> <p>Renewables: WSWMD is a great site for a solar array. Dave McManus is working on estimates. Delta would own panels, WSWMD would lease the land to Delta. David is also working on estimates for solar on the Latchis Theatre roof. Integrated Solar is looking at Retreat Meadows pump station 1 acre site, and wants to know if town would be interested in purchasing energy from this project. Town could use both-- depending on how many kwh is needed/produced. Town would need to buy the panels eventually to get the most benefit.</p> <p>PACE: No new news. Problems continue at national level and locally. 34 of the 35 towns in Vermont that voted said yes in 2012 to PACE. Town attorney continues to have concerns.</p> <p>Transportation: Subcommittee meeting scheduled for 7/19 to discuss approach for promoting alternative transportation with the round table businesses. Need to go deeper, perhaps work with businesses 1 on1 to develop strategic plans to encourage employees to</p>	<p>Renewables: next step is talk with Barb Sondag about the possibility of town pursuing buying electricity through this. Jed would like to be on Renewables subcommittee with Andy, Jason, Glen, Lester, Paul.</p> <p>PACE: subcommittee will meet with Barb Sondag and Bob Fisher to learn more about his concerns and when they might be resolved. Suggest he meet with other town attorneys to discuss PACE concerns.</p>

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	<p>carpool, bike, etc. Might be able to get a grant from VTrans through High Meadows fund to pay for this work.</p> <p>Town Meeting resolution subcommittee: Ralph's priority has been to find new work for himself, but he is confident that the plan he has devised will go forward, despite being an unfunded, open-ended mandate.</p>	
New Business	<p>Bob floated idea: Thermal House is looking to have a Fair to get people interested in weatherization. Can we combine this with the Weatherization Challenge this fall? We could invite other town energy committees and other businesses (solar, etc). Thermal House's new site on Putney Rd has a large lot where the fair could be held. All agreed this sounds like a good idea.</p>	Discuss further at next meeting.
Next meeting		August 13, 2012