

Minutes

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Date: May 14, 2012

Present: Paul Cameron, Peter Falion, Glenn LeTourneau, Ralph Meima, Andy Shepard, Kathleen White

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Call to Order, agenda review, minutes</p>	<p>Meeting called to order at 5:12. No quorum.</p>	<p>Approve April minutes at June meeting.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>1. BTU and BCP sponsoring wood heat workshop, Saturday, May 19. Several vendors will be there. Not filled yet.</p> <p>2. Selectboard meeting May 15 6:15 PM. BEC giving Sustainable Business Awards and BEC Annual report.</p> <p>3. Climate Summer: teams of 18-25 year old bicyclers making 5 day visits in 7 Vt towns. Will be in Brattleboro July 30-August 5. Looking for projects to work on. We could sponsor them, bring media attention, organize a meeting for them, etc. Paul committed to doing something with them.</p> <p>4. Peter reported on the legislative session: Bottle bill did not go far enough. There will be a stronger bill next year. Fracking ban passed!! Increased solar tax bill passed; net metering also. Renewable portfolio stds did not pass. 5 kw solar sytems went to 8 allowable kw before needing CPG. This is an improvement.</p>	<p>Inform interested others.</p> <p>Energy Committee members encouraged to attend selectboard meeting.</p> <p>Think about ideas for how we could assist the Climate Summer group.</p>
<p>Subcommittee Reports</p>	<p>PACE: Jim Barlow of VLCT is working on a FAQ for PACE to be complete end of May. The last tricky issue is: does town have the ability to pass taxing authority to another entity? In reality, town maintains taxing authority; would be passing on only the administrative duties of collecting taxes. Understandable, town attorney Bob Fisher needs to be really clear about this before he can recommend PACE to the Selectboard and town. We are still hoping to get a question about PACE on the special town meeting warning. Probably won't be scheduled until end of August. VEIC has not gotten the \$22.5 million</p>	

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	<p>needed to administer the program and offer the loans. Commerical entities will be eligible for PACE loans per legislation this year.</p> <p>Renewables: Press release went out on Green Homes Tourist. 8 Bratt homes now on website. Glen would like to get Simson rental building on Esty/Birge on the site.</p> <p>-Solar sites for town of Brattleboro: no town land has been found appropriate. Against the Grain at Book Press is interested, BUHS looks promising, Latchis is interested, Delta itself, WSWMD landfill director, Bob Spencer is very interested and sending out RFPs to potential contractors. Delta would finance the system and sell the power to the town. Eventually town would own the system.</p> <p>Transportation: It's Way to Go Week. 3,490 Vermonters have signed up so far. Sub-Committee tabled at BMH, New Chapter and Retreat, with hopefully good results. Landmark splitting the cost with Putney, of doing a study re: a sidewalk from village to Landmark.</p> <p>Efficiency: Streetlight project: Map and plan to change out streetlights to LED completed. Once Steve Barrett approved, it will go to Barb Sondag and traffic safety committee. Will do test neighborhood in each of the 3 zones, and evaluate to see if any lights can be turned off or need to be added. Project will save town about \$70,000/yr.</p> <p>Efficiency Loan Program: Kathleen will be contacting 4 banks to ask if they would like to partner with BEC to offer low interest, fixed rate loans for weatherization and renewable energy systems for their customers.</p> <p>Town Buildings: Paul, Chuck Clerici and Bob did walk through of all town buildings to find opportunities for energy savings. Attic insulation needed in municipal building; fire dept also needs insulating. Chuck writing up report.</p>	<p>Glenn will get owner's name to Paul, who will contact them, once he checks to make sure rentals can be included.</p> <p>Paul will have Delta contact Gail Nunziata at Latchis Arts.</p>
<p>Proposal from "Euromodel"</p>	<p>Ralph and George Harvey met. Ralph worked up 4 page proposal. Town meeting is looking for what options are</p>	<p>No quorum to approve proposal. In the meantime, Ralph will continue to feel out</p>

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subcommittee	<p>out there in the world for dealing with energy issues, but Ralph realized the charge was very vague. Goal: to make this something that is used. Sees this as an opportunity to kick off long term learning with many people. 2 horns of dilemma: 1) Price of oil for heating and transportation is slowly, continually rising. 2) difficult for people to learn about all the initiatives going on because it's all so fragmented. Would like to get BUHS and WRCC students learning about the ecology of energy and the local economy-- create an Ecology Council to act as a resource to students. Plusses: the town is interested in something like this, lots of students to do projects, lots of individuals as resources. Has spoken to Tom Yahn and Tim Kipp about it. Both open to idea. Could be of benefit to Sustainable Business Program at MGC too. May be grants available. Could match students with kids in the countries they are studying. Concerns: timing to get into 2012/13 school year is tight. Critical to get students involved. If no funding, schools may not be interested. Need to get a few teachers on board and to see it as a fit into existing curriculum not an add-on. Ralph looking for suggestion of teachers. Clubs also suggested, ie Protecting the Planet.</p>	<p>teachers at BUHS and ask for guidance on what is realistic. Contact Ralph with ideas of people he should contact.</p>
Meeting adjourned	6:35 PM.	

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