

**Minutes: January 6, 2014****Group:** Brattleboro Energy Committee**Attendees:** Lester Humphreys, Bob Rueter, Paul Cameron, Chad Simmons, Tad Montgomery, Sheetal Kumar Chanda, Jed Leslie, Ralph Meima**Guest:** Ahlam Ahmed Nour

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
A). Call to order, Agenda review, Minutes approval	1) December minutes approval. Add three corrections/additions from Tad. Abstention is misspelled; re the PACE cmte report, Bob Fisher was going to talk with Putney and Montpelier in particular; re efficiency cmte: Tad suggested that solid payback period analysis be included in the bid document for the energy audit	Minutes approved with corrections/additions. 7 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions
B). Check-in, Introductions, Announcements	<p>1) Ralph Meima. Spent \$2000 on fuel and pellets for this season of heating. Still asking SEVCA to weatherize rental units.</p> <p>2) Biomass discussion on Tuesday Jan 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at Rivergarden</p> <p>3) Zoe Armstrong will need to resign from committee due to a conflict of interest</p> <p>4) Sheetal is looking at ways to educate residents about reducing their carbon footprint. Paul: education has happened and continuing. More focus is placed on projects. There was an education subcommittee, but is no longer going. Could start up again. Bob: Home Energy Challenge (HEC) efforts served as educational outreach. We did a series of workshops throughout the year (ex: Button Up workshops; Heat Pump workshop). Talk to Paul for more information about what has happened in the past. If there is a new idea, talk to Paul and Lester about a new subcommittee.</p> <p>5) Current committees: PACE, HEC, Efficiency, Renewables, Transportation, Project Atlantic, Energy Data,</p>	
C). Subcommittee Reports:		
1). PACE	1) Bob and Lester responded to town staff regarding questions they have. Selectboard will not support PACE until	1) Paul and Lester go back to VEIC to answer questions from town attorney and

	<p>the town attorney and finance director are satisfied. Attached are the questions and responses. VT Cities &amp; Towns is doing a survey to figure out what the 25 other towns that have passed the administrative agreements are doing. Still need clarification on one of the issues.</p>	<p>finance director. Two options: funds go through town and VEIC agrees to that OR VEIC agrees to indemnify. PACE subcommittee will meet sometime in the next month.</p>
<p>2). VT Home Energy Challenge (VHEC)</p>	<p>1) Brattleboro now has 32 homes completed (18% of goal). HEC deadline for counting completed projects by Feb 15. Projects completed by Feb 15 will also get the \$500 bonus (carried over from 12/31/13). We still have the website domain name. Jed is asking if we want to keep it. We have a year to consider. Announcing winner in March. 2) Video project. Tad and Chad working on a proposal with input from Efficiency VT and BEC members.</p>	
<p>3). Efficiency a) Town buildings (includes town skating rink committee)</p>	<p>1) Town buildings. David Schoales put a motion before the selectboard to do 5 buildings for no more than \$3400. Bob spoke with Patrick Moorland and Zero-By-Degrees (a company that can do the municipal building) for approximately \$3500 (municipal building only). Patrick is worried about staff time. The \$3500 includes specific audit items that would meet needs of large buildings. Patrick would really like to complete audit this winter. Full cost of audit is not yet settled and would include 2 additional meetings. David Schoales is willing to amend his motion to ask for \$5000 for town buildings in FY 2015. Patrick thinks there is money in the FY 2014 budget, but is still concerned about staff time needs. Bob is not yet sure what the actual cost will be. Energy committee staff is willing to help with hours to person the building while the audit tests are going on. Bob is waiting to get a full, final estimate. If David is not able to amend his proposal for \$5000 in FY 2015, it will make it difficult for the town to commit to doing the audits for each building.</p>	<p>1) Paul will follow-up with David Schoales to clarify what he intends to do during the 1/7/14 selectboard meeting.</p>
<p>4). Renewables a) Solar electric project</p>	<p>1) Solar electric. Going to be in Townsend (on farmland that it appears will still be farmed) and will start</p>	

b) Electric car charging stations	development in June. 2) Electric car. Sub committee looking for another grant opportunity to apply for.	
5). Transportation	1) Had series of meetings with businesses that are participating for SMART Commute program. All six businesses put together action plans. Next roundtable meeting is Wednesday January 15 <sup>th</sup>	
6). Project Atlantic	1) BUHS project. 7-8 projects going on in one class. Studying Brattleboro and other communities around the globe. There will be a public fair/presentation of these projects in February. 2) Creation of website and info graphics.	
7). Energy Data	1) Paul will set up meeting between John, Patrick and Jed to figure out logistics/process for implementing the data program. Jed will send proposal to Paul. 2) Mistake on graph Lester and Paul presented. Avoided capital cost only last 15 years rather than 40 years. Question from Tad: What is the lifespan of the big-ticket items purchased from the project? Depends on the item. Some of the efficiency/technology used are forever. Some will be years. It varies. It all needs maintenance.	
E). Solarize Project	1) Some entity encourages the installation of solar arrays. Sun Common is one of those companies. <b>**Suggested description change from Tad: "This is a process to bring discounted solar energy to homeowners and businesses through a 'bulk purchase' type of arrangement combined with community organizing. One or more solar installers are selected by the town and offer discounted rates." **</b> 2) Postpone to next meeting	
F). Next Meeting	Monday, February 3, 2014 at 5:00pm 2) Speakers. David Cohen will come to speak about bicycle use.	