

Minutes: 03/07/2016

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Michael Bosworth, Paul Cameron, Tom Finnell, George Harvey, Mary McLaughlin, Ralph Meima, Tad Montgomery, Kathleen White.

Guests: Cody Berwick, Avery Schwenk, Kip Tewksbury

Topic	Discussion	Action
Introductions, Call to Order, Agenda Review, Approval of 12/7/15, 1/5/16, & 2/1/16 minutes	12/7/16 minutes: 1 change requested by Tad: "Efficiency Vt should cover ½ cost of audit". 2/7/16 minutes: Tad noted several corrections needed, mostly typos and formatting.	December minutes approved with change, 6-0-0. January minutes approved 6-0-0. Kathleen will make corrections on February minutes. Approval tabled until next meeting.
Announcements	1. Weatherization meeting, March 8, 5 PM Planning Dept. with Chad Farnum, Guy Payne, Paul, Michael, to discuss how to get more people to weatherize their homes and take advantage of PACE. Everyone welcome. 2. Walk/Bike Summit: April 1&2, Rutland. 3. EPA webinar on Community Solar, Wednesday 3/9.	3. If interested in webinar, contact Tad and he will send link.
Subcommittees	1.a. Energy Efficiency/Audits: Margaret hoping to provide final reports by end of this week on all buildings. She will then meet with Peter Elwell, Patrick Moreland & interested BEC members to review; then meet with Dept Heads; then Margaret will present to Selectboard. b. Michael has been working on a presentation for Town mtg to update TM members on what's being done with the Energy Efficiency fund (\$50K) voted in 2 years ago. Presentation could be given by BEC member, TM and Asst TM. We will have lots of info soon from the building audits—will need to discuss how to prioritize the work and where the funds will come from. 2. Renewables: a. Landfill solar project moving forward; it was commissioned to be completed this year. It may not be possible to get 5 MW solar on landfill, because of methane generating project going on there. Integrated Solar is the company. b. Town's purchase of net-metering credits: town is at odds with some details of the agreement signed with Next	b. Ask Peter his advice on who this information should come from and should it be presented to the Selectboard?

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	<p>Sun. Town trying to change some elements of contract to be more favorable to the town. Went to mediation.</p> <p>c. 500 KW solar project is well advanced. Green Lantern bought out the share from Winstanley. Located behind Holiday Inn Express.</p> <p>3. Transportation: Met last week, elected Kathleen chair.</p> <p>a. Subcommittee supported a letter (advised by Chris Parker, drafted by Paul) to the legislature, endorsing the idea of increasing the number of passenger trains through Brattleboro daily.</p> <p>b. Paul reported on Smart Commute efforts with local businesses.</p> <p>c. Discussed Safer Streets Community Forum, 5/5, 5-8PM, River Garden.</p> <p>d. Shared legislative updates on Transportation issues submitted by Mollie Burke.</p> <p>e. Dave Cohen will have a v-bike fleet available this spring to loan to people interested in possibly purchasing one.</p> <p>f. Coop is working with Dave and Alice Charkes on providing a bicycle food delivery service by this summer.</p> <p>g. EV charging Station: hoping for installation in High-Grove lot in next 1-2 months.</p> <p>4. Zero Energy Now (ZEN): WRC, BCP, SEON held public session 3/1 with Farnum, Integrated Solar, Solaflect & Builder's Professional Performance Assoc. Funds are from CVPS legacy monies from GMP. \$600K budgeted. Paul will find out from organizers how BEC can help recruit interested homeowners & businesses.</p> <p>5. Project Atlantic: Mike Auerbach sent a link to one of the videos students have created this year. Very well done. Ralph suggested BEC relinquish the Project, being unsure what role BEC has in it. Can BEC help with getting the work shown to the public? How best can we recognize the students? Offer a prize? Show it on BCTV, to be possibly picked up elsewhere?</p> <p>6. Integrated Energy Systems: Helen Bruneau of GMP is rolling out a public program statewide in 6-8 weeks.</p>	<p>Paul will contact Mike to see if there are more videos and if students want to present to BEC. Also, if Mike would like a community advisory board for the project. . Paul will invite Mike to next BEC mtg (4/4) to discuss how we can support the project.</p> <p>Michael will keep in touch with Helen.</p>

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	<p>Subcommittee began with interest in microgrids. Deployment of Tesla wall batteries is a related subject of interest. Switchyard at Vernon is valuable unused resource since VY closure. Tom has link about a company that creates data centers—the waste heat from a data center could heat Brattleboro; could be a use for the switchyard. Vernon approved continuing to look at gas plant; inconclusive at this point if switchyard will be available.</p> <p>8. PACE: March 8 meeting noted under announcements.</p>	<p>Tom will send link about data centers to Paul to share.</p>
<p>Passenger Rail letter</p>	<p>Transportation sub-committee looking for BEC to approve the passenger rail letter. Want to get it to other entities to sign on, such as Town Mgr, WRC, SEVEDS, BDCC.</p>	<p>6-0-0 vote to approve the letter. Paul will ask Peter Elwell if he will sign it, and take to WRC, SEVEDS, BDCC as well.</p>
<p>Carbon impact of police station location</p>	<p>Tad proposed we ask Town Mtg Reps to look at impact on carbon emmisions of moving police station to Black Mtn. such as how efficient is the building, how many miles/day and per year extra would police travel? All agreed we do not have time as special town mtg is Saturday of this week.</p>	
<p>Town Energy and Sustainability manager position</p>	<p>Paul is interested in Brattleboro creating this position. He has talked to Peter Elwell, who wants more info. Carol Collins holds position in Greenfield, MA and has saved town a lot of money. Mayor of Greenfield would write a letter of support to Peter.</p>	<p>Table until Paul has more information.</p>
<p>Review sub-committee membership</p>	<p>Reviewed subcommittees. Mary asked to be on Transportation and Energy Data. Kip will be joining committee & will study options before deciding.</p>	<p>See list Paul generated of subcommittee members.</p>
<p>Next meeting date/topic/speaker</p>	<p>Agreed to ask Mike Auerbach to attend re: Project Atlantic</p>	<p>Next meeting: April 4.</p>

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