

Minutes:

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Paul Cameron, Jason Cooper, Josh Hilsdon, Lester Humphreys, Jed Leslie, Tori Managan, Ralph Meima, Bob Rueter, Kathleen White. Guest: David Schoales, briefly

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order, Agenda review		
Minutes approval		March minutes approved with 1 abstention
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two people from Germany and Belgium who organized renewable energy Coops, are visiting. Public meeting April 23, probably at World Learning. 2. BEC members invited to go out after meeting tonight to celebrate PACE passage at Town Meeting. 3. Our chair, Lester, remarked on the successes and movement recently on many of our projects. 	Paul will send details re: time and place.
Sub-Committee reports	<p>1. Renewables</p> <p>a. Solar Electric: on docket for selectboard meeting, Tuesday, April 2. Subcommittee narrowed field to 2 bidders. Integrated solar offered highest savings to the town; Soveren already has land. BEC will recommend Int. Solar for this 500kw system. Projected savings: \$16K/yr at current cost of power. Cost avoidance if rates go up. 500 kw is 20% of town's electric use, 40% of electric bill. Bratt could use 1 more system. Looking for guidance from selectboard on what we should look at next. Various options: 1 more 500kw system, fixed price system, town owns system, not do anything for awhile.</p> <p>b. Paul wants to follow up with the 10 people who attended solar workshop last year to find out perceived barriers and help needed. Jed agreed to help with this.</p> <p>2. PACE: passed at town meeting, with only 4-5 questions. Selectboard now needs to decide whether to</p>	Paul will send the spreadsheet about solar project that will be given to the selectboard to all BEC.

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	<p>let EV or town administer the program,. Town employee needs to be selected to be liason. Bob suggested an Executive summary be written for the board with ~5 bullet points. EV has at least \$1million for financing, still looking for more funds. This is enough for ~140 projects statewide, and will go fast. Has been a 3 year project, with lots of good work done.</p> <p>3. Efficiency:</p> <p>a. VHEC: Making phone calls, putting up displays in banks, articles in Reformer, Commons, letters to editor, homeowners have agreed to do energy parties, door to door outreach, home energy tour Saturday, May 4, 10-1, a group will visit 4 homes to see what's been done and talk to contractors. Chad offered to participate on VHEC committee.</p> <p>b. Streetlights: still doing inventory to find where lights can be turned off or need more. About half of town has been switched to LED. A source for LEDs for Acorn (decorative) lights has been found, but pricey and some technical issues—lights overheat.</p> <p>c. Town Building Energy Audits: Barb Sondag thinks enough funds will be available/left over from renegotiation of Honeywell project loan for all town buildings. Barb will pick a contractor.</p> <p>d. Electric Car charging stations: Bratt Food Coop would be a good location. Dave Cohen would like to be able to charge electric assist bikes there as well. Grove St charger is in place, but not turned on yet. Has capacity to do 2 cars, but not enough room for 2 at once. Needs signage to let public know location. Jerry Goldberg still in touch with Tesla to get a Tesla station in Brattleboro.</p> <p>4. Transportation:</p> <p>a. Way to Go Week, May 13-17. Next business roundtable on 4/17 will focus on this. Easy for businesses to sign up for Way to Go week on website.</p> <p>b. High Meadows convening a meeting on 4/24 in Brattleboro to look at activity, successes, challenges of</p>	<p>Paul and Bob need to figure out what's next with PACE.</p> <p>Next VHEC meeting 4/17, 4:30, planning dept.</p> <p>Streetlight subcommittee participants will continue with their inventories.</p> <p>Jed may go to a Coop board meeting to discuss installing electric car charging station in Coop parking lot.</p>

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	<p>Transportation Demand Mgt here-- what folks from around the state can learn from what's going on here and what we can learn from what's going on statewide. This came out of our work with SWRPC in Keene, NH.</p> <p>c. Municipal Park & Ride at Exit 3: Paul working to get it listed on Way to Go website. 30 spaces for carpoolers, but not well utilized. Signage is small.</p> <p>d. Discussion about details of Putney Rd Road Plan. Will not be on docket until 2020.</p> <p>7. Project Atlantic: info session 3/11 after Energy in Germany event. 10-12 people signed up with interest. Ralph spoke at Advanced Biology Class at BUHS to talk about it. Michelle Hood's class beginning new curriculum piece to compare Brattleboro energy use with other towns locally. SEON events happening concurrently. Ralph looking for direction from BEC: he was advised to establish meeting on regular basis to flesh out project, take direction from people who show up. Are there action items to pitch in on? Jed volunteered to be involved. Ralph foresees a variety of opportunities to go to BUHS classrooms to speak about areas of expertise. Mike Auerbach, science teacher, interested too.</p>	<p>Park & Ride needs better publicity</p> <p>Ralph will set up Project Atlantic meetings.</p>
<p>Annual Report</p>	<p>BEC usually goes to Selectboard in May. Will be educating new select people about what BEC is doing and seek guidance on what they would like to see us do. Jed suggested we make the point that it's good to spend money now to save money later. EV is involved in police/fire project and skating rink project, so energy efficiency should be at the forefront of these projects.</p>	<p>All BEC members welcome to attend May Selectboard meeting when BEC annual report is presented. Paul will prepare and send out report for comments.</p>
<p>Future topics and speakers</p>	<p>Jed informed us that Tom from Clean Cities would be available to speak at our July meeting.</p> <p>Other topics: Thermal Efficiency bill that's going through legislature once it's passed. (Tristan Toleno's take is that there will be policy and expectations, but no funding. Taxing Break-open tickets is overrated in terms of funds that would bring in. Political reasons and special interests for opposition to tax on heating oil/fuel.</p>	

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	EV: incentives for thermal efficiency work is at 5-10% range of cost of project. EV work is mostly electric projects because the money comes from electric bills. Thermal is not yet on par with electric.	
Next meeting		Monday, May 6, 5 PM