

## Minutes: 04/04/2016

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

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

Guests: Cody Berwick, Peter Elwell, Patrick Moreland, Kim Smith

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Introductions, Call to Order, Agenda Review, Approval of &amp; 2/1/16 and 3/7/16 minutes</b></p>	<p>No quorum; minutes not able to be approved.</p>	<p>Approve Feb, March and April minutes at May meeting.</p>
<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<p>George: starting on personal solar installation with Acquion batteries. Cost: \$2500 for 5, reasonable. Hooking them to nanogrid at his home.</p>	
<p><b>Subcommittees— Energy Efficiency</b></p>	<p><b>1. Energy Efficiency a. town Energy Efficiency plan/audits:</b> Patrick thanked BEC members who worked with Margaret and put together the great structure for the audit work. Audits are complete. Used funding sources: EV &amp; Windham Wood Heat (WWH). 6 of the audited locations have proven cost effective to make transition to wood pellet heat. WWH can help with cost. Looking at April 19 to present audit results to select board. Plan to put audit reports on town website (all agreed on Energy Committee page) so public can see. Looking at assets in Parking &amp; Utility fund (enterprise funds that are from revenues, not taxes) to cover costs of implementation of some projects. These funds do not need town meeting approval. Want to put funds to work quickly. Patrick, Steve Barrett, John O'Connor will meet 4/12 to discuss. Projects to be funded by general fund will have to wait until 2017 budget. Will present again to selectboard in late May with set of recommended projects to move forward with and lay groundwork for FY'17 projects, with hopes they will agree. Some of the recommendations are inexpensive and do not need borrowing. George asked if anyone looked into wood heat/power combined? WWH doesn't cover that, not aware if there are any approved systems in the US. CEDF could be petitioned if there are. Town is excited about a proposal to</p>	<p>Kim Smith of WWH will try to get extension on WWH from March to September 2017 to allow for town meeting approval of the 1 system idea. Town needs to get future of Municipal bldg. settled enough to know if town will keep the building, before proceeding on this.</p> <p>Paul, Tad, Michael and Bob interested in attending 4/12 9:30-12:30 meeting.</p>

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	<p>have 1 system heat the municipal building &amp; library—a general fund item. (Combined system could apply in this case, if there is an approved system). Could general fund projects be done with a bond? Possibly, but not enough info yet. A loan of more than 5 years goes to town meeting. Need to explore if there are grants for this. Strategy for implementation: Margaret packaged certain projects together. Will try to follow that thinking. Concerns about getting it done quickly must be balanced with concerns about cost.</p> <p>Retrofitting WWTP: Patrick talking with Steve Barrett.</p> <p>Energy Efficiency at new BPD building on Black Mtn? Will do maximum possible while maintaining budget. Plan &amp; design will happen in next few months. Can BEC be involved with oversight committee of BPD? Yes.</p> <p>Solar PV on property &amp; roof of new BPD? Town could lease the solar even if they don't want it for the town.</p> <p><b>b. meeting with weatherization contractors:</b> learned that people are not scheduling audits. Interested in comfort issues or want to deal with specific problems, but not get audits. Pace excitement has died. Audits are driven by fear of cold winter; if autumn is warm, no calls. EV incentives involve too much paperwork to be worth it. BEC could provide more education re: year round comfort, how energy works in the home, etc. George suggested having the ZEN contractors on his Energy TV show; also put info about ZEN in Green Energy Times.</p> <p><b>2. Renewables:</b> WSWMD solar: Pristine Sun has new financial partner, project is back on track. Need CPG by end of year. Can switch to different company if Pristine Sun isn't moving along fast enough.</p> <p><b>3. Transportation:</b> a. Smart Commute: Paul still working with Retreat &amp; WSESU on vanpool.</p> <p>b. charging station: scheduled to do when ground thaws</p> <p>c. additional trains to Brattleboro: Kate O'Connor willing to sign letter. WRC hasn't met yet. Want BDCC to sign too.</p> <p>We need more info about transportation budget process,</p>	

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	<p>so we can provide a good argument.</p> <p>d. Several of subcommittee went to Bike/walk summit 4/1.</p> <p>e. Safe Streets Forum May 5, 5-7:30, River Garden.</p> <p><b>4. Zero Energy Now:</b> should it be a subcommittee?  Evolved out of Bratt Solar Summer committee decision to work on recruiting homes to do more wholistic energy work that includes solar. Goal: 50 homes in former CVPS area. Incentive: Up to \$5K grant from CVPS on top of \$2500 from EV. Next year's goal is 500 homes.</p> <p><b>5. Project Atlantic:</b> Mike Auerbach decided not to attend tonight, may come next month.</p> <p><b>6. Integrated Energy systems:</b></p> <p><b>7. Energy data:</b> Lester is still willing to collect town energy data</p> <p><b>8. PACE:</b> subcommittee not meeting. Is there a way to get momentum going? Other loan products have better interest rates. Process very involved. People aren't using it statewide. Can find info on EV website.</p>	<p>Wait until next meeting to vote on ZEN becoming an official sub-committee. Can meet in the meantime.</p> <p>IES: Michael will be in touch with Helen Bruneau to get update.</p>
<p><b>Other Business</b></p>	<p>a. Michael: who is the point person at WWHT on wood heat/energy decisions? Would she/he like to learn more about it from WWH? Bruce Whitney is special projects; new employee Peter would be involved with this.</p> <p>b. George: We should think about the Connecticut River dams. Shumlin very interested in purchasing them. They would be a huge asset: 520 MW power. BEC should stay aware of what's going on. Shumlin will be at Chamber lunch 4/11, 11:30 at American Legion. Might GMP be interested in buying them? Power companies incentive is to own them so they can sell the renewable energy credits. We will need more infrastructure when we stop using fossil fuels.</p> <p>Paul commented that he has seen a real change in the town attitude about energy issues and feel the change is a result of the great work of BEC repeating the ROI message. Paul wants to recognize all who have worked so hard on the BEC with the town.</p>	<p>Mary will talk with Peter at WWHT about whether he wants to learn more about wood heating options from WWH.</p>

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<b>Next meeting</b>		Monday, May 3, 5 PM.