

Minutes:

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Paul Cameron, Jason Cooper, Lester Humphreys, Jed Leslie, Bob Rueter, Kathleen White. Guests: Zoe Armstrong, David Schoales, Barbara Sondag, David Gartenstein

Topic	Discussion	Action
Agenda review and introductions		
Minutes approval		Approved
Working with Town Departments on Energy Projects	<p>BEC invited Barb and David to discuss how to work with the town without “stepping on toes”. Goal is to save town money and decrease energy use.</p> <p>David Schoales asked: at what point in any departmental project, should BEC become involved? Barb: At the capital planning stage (which goes out 5 years). Paul should have overview of what town is doing. Role of BEC should be advising the selectboard and town mgr, and clarify to Dept Heads that BEC can help when starting projects. We need a “capital results” plan to see cost avoidance when money is spent upfront and there is ROI in decreased fuel costs over time. BEC could work on ways to communicate this concept. Could we put savings in a fund for other energy saving projects? All agreed that BEC and Town have been collaborating well, and that the communication could be improved. Good discussion.</p>	BEC should look at Brattleboro’s capital plan at next meeting. Work on ways to communicate cash flow + results of upfront spending to reduce energy use.
Annual Report	Paul is seeking feedback. Has received a few comments from BEC members.	Defer approval to next meeting
Sub-Committee reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. PACE: VEIC to hold statewide meeting and set an enrollment period later this year. Still trying to secure financing.2. Home Energy Challenge: Home tour May 11 of 4 homes; Outreach day June 1: 4 teams went door to door; organizing home energy parties this summer. 10 completed projects in Brattleboro and 22 completed audits. Audit #s are up, projects are down. Tad and Paul met	

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>with Windham & Windsor Housing Trust Director, Connie Snow re: Neighborworks Heat Squad--looking to expand into Windham Cty. Connie will organize a meeting of all the local contractors to discuss the impact of this.</p> <p>3. Efficiency: a. Streetlights: 40% converted to LEDs. Starting to see savings in town bills. \$2500 less on electric bill when compared to 1 year ago. Highest energy using lights on Main St are not converted yet.</p> <p>b. Town Buildings: Money is available for audit on Town Hall—needs to happen by 06/30/13. BEC recommended qualified contractors. What % of town budget goes to energy use? Every building should be audited. BEC could then let selectboard know how much it would cost to retrofit these buildings. Perhaps Selectboard could have a policy discussion on what priority to give energy use. Once a policy is set, town would have an energy budget and be managed accordingly. When Annual report is given, we could start that discussion.</p> <p>4. Renewables: a. Solar Electric Project: At Selectboard's request, BEC (Lester and Paul) put together a proposal for town to lease a solar array at WSWMD and sell extra power to Retreat, BMH (who are enthusiastic about this idea). GMP will buy the excess power.</p> <p>b. Electric car charging: Town is probably willing to put one in transportation ctr (100 amp). It will be free. Town will track electric usage—if too much could decide to charge \$. Jason checking with Latchis Hotel, Sam's, other business to see if they would make donations for it. Looking also at Preston Lot as a site. Charger at Stone Church to be turned on this week.</p> <p>5. Project Atlantic: Group met once, with good energy and interest. Next meeting June 12 or 19. Check google docs to see what's happening.</p>	<p>Ask finance director to look at town budget for % going to energy use.</p> <p>Put an energy savings report from projects BEC has done so far with annual report, and on BEC webpage. Lester will graph the streetlight bill for the past year and send to BEC members.</p> <p>Paul will send proposal to BEC members.</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
	6. Transportation: Mtg with Upper Valley Transportation Management last month. Matt Mann, Sue Graff, and Paul. Interest generated in having a Go Windham Campaign to bring more stakeholders to the table and promote alternative transportation. Will meet again in fall.	
Sustainable business awards	Decision to defer to next meeting	Paul will send out last year's nominees. All should submit nominations to Paul.
Next meeting	Paul requests we change to July 15 as he cannot do the usual 1 st Monday.	Paul will send out doodle poll to find a date that works for the majority.