

Minutes: Aug 5th, 2013

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Kathleen White, Lester Humphreys, Bob Rueter, Jed Leslie, Jason Cooper, Chad Simmons, Ralph Meima,. Guest: Michael Bosworth, David Schoales

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order, Agenda review, Minutes approval	<p>Question: Does the transportation subcommittee deal with fuel cost of vehicles? Answer, no. Committee will look at and present to selectboard.</p> <p>Add to agenda under Efficiency, Skating rink</p> <p>Add to agenda under Solar Electric Project, Selectboard report</p> <p>Add to agenda under Efficiency, building audits.</p> <p>Approval of July 1st minutes:</p>	July minutes approved
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Workshop, Friday Sept 6 in Stratton Mtn: Solar Powering Your Community by the Dept of Energy and 4 planning commissions.	
Clean Heat Community Challenge Program	<p>Michael Bosworth gave a presentation about the program and handed out a 1-page description sheet.</p> <p>Question: what role should the committee play?</p> <p>New program coming out of the VT clean energy development fund.</p> <p>\$550,000 would go to one community, not split between several.</p> <p>In Brattleboro, already exploring district heating. Many options available for the town to explore.</p> <p>Ralph: Several years ago, a number of people explored wood-fired district heating in Brattleboro (Brattleboro Thermal Utility (BTU)), but it fell through. With this program, one option is for several entities to come together and put one application together to look at the</p>	

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	<p>larger issues. (ex: feasibility study that leads to project development, permitting, financing, etc).</p> <p>Support of Energy Committee will be important.</p> <p>Lester: Doesn't see any reason why the Energy committee would not support. But, it may not be lead by the committee.</p> <p>Lester: Someone/group needs to step forward to take lead.</p> <p>Ralph: At this point, an ad hoc group is interested in starting to look at the application</p> <p>Lester: Proposal that Michael and Ralph be the Energy Committee point people and those interested can contact them. At that point, we'll see where it goes.</p> <p>Ralph will send a Google Doc to the committee.</p> <p>Jed: Question, would the work BTU already did be appropriate to put forward as a proposal? Seeing that it may already be "shovel-ready." Michael said not necessarily. Contact Ralph or Michael if they want to talk more about it.</p>	<p>Addendum: Have Michael and Ralph be point people for Energy Committee. Approved</p>
<p>Subcommittee Report: PACE</p>	<p>Paul: Enrollment begins Sept 1st. He met with PACE Coordinator and town attorney, Bob Fisher. Legal docs will be on Aug 20th Selectboard meeting. PACE public info session will be held on Wednesday, Sept 4th 5-6pm at Marlboro Graduate Center, 2E.</p> <p>\$1 million will be available. Average project is \$7k, so about 144 projects.</p>	

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<p>Subcommittee Report: Home Energy Challenge</p>	<p>5 months left. Publicity campaign is starting. \$500 incentives were extended through the end of the year.</p> <p>Door to Door outreach events: Sat Sept 14th and Sat Oct 5th from 1-3pm</p> <p>Continuing to do phone call follow-ups.</p> <p>Brattleboro has 11 completed at this point.</p> <p>How is it counted? Paul will check, but thinks it is a project that is completed in calendar year 2013.</p> <p>\$500 incentive does not count if the project was started in a previous year.</p> <p>Continue encouraging people to take challenge.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Report: Efficiency, Street Lights</p>	<p>Street Lights:</p> <p>Street light recommendations made by subcommittee members are being done by town as streetlights are being replaced.</p> <p>What is being saved at this point? About \$2k a month savings with about 50% complete.</p> <p>Town Buildings-Skating Rink:</p> <p>Selectboard approved to spend money (\$30k) to improve rink now while group meets to discuss future,</p>	

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	<p>long-term plans. Application to join the skating rink committee is Aug 15th. Please put your name forward if you are interested. Committee to look at where has this been done and what are the potential savings. Opportunities/challenges. Committee is looking at a more integrated system.</p> <p>Key is to look at the long-term cost (i.e. monthly cost of capital and operating).</p> <p>Recruit at least one member of the committee. Jed is 20% interested until we get more clarity on the time commitment. Kathleen will think about it.</p> <p>In general, Energy Committee members need to be a part of every capital investment conversation.</p> <p>Ask selectboard if it is possible to have a representative of the Energy Committee on this group.</p> <p>Continue communicating via email to make sure we get someone from the Energy Committee there.</p> <p>Town Buildings-Municipal building:</p>	

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	<p>Looking at doing an energy audit of the municipal building. Town has said it will happen, but it hasn't happened yet.</p> <p>David inquired about if the dollars were allocated to perform an audit and will be done. Paul will follow-up with Interim Town Manager to learn exactly when.</p> <p>Or, if this could be folded into PD project and if the PD/Fire committee would be willing to fold in to their project.</p> <p>Paul will follow up with Interim Town Manager first.</p> <p>Town Buildings-Other municipal building:</p> <p>Cynthia Veet from EPA is doing a town energy management plan. This will give us a picture of how the Town is using energy. Paul is working with her to generate final report and presentation. This would include all town buildings.</p> <p>Lester: Suggesting we (Energy Committee) take recommendations from this report and Efficiency Report and combine them as one set of recommendations/direction.</p>	<p>Adendum: Combine EPA and Efficiency Subcomm reports. Approved.</p>

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<p>Subcommittee Report: Renewables</p>	<p>Solar Project:</p> <p>Paul: Spoke with Integrated Solar about finding a site for the town solar project.</p> <p>Lester: Spoke with GMP about the location of the project. Project MUST be in the GMP or previous CVPS service area.</p> <p>August 20th Renewable Subcommittee will be presenting a proposal to the selectboard. Proposal will be to lease the whole landfill area from WSWMD for one or more solar electric project(s) totally approximately 2 megawatts. Motion for committee to approve this proposal for presentation to selectboard on Aug 20th.</p> <p>Suggestion to send proposal to local newspapers after it is on agenda in order to generate interest and support.</p> <p>WSWMD is supportive of proposals to use the whole thing.</p>	<p>Motion carries unanimously.</p>

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	<p>Electric Plug in Station:</p> <p>Parish House station should be done at the end of the month at the latest.</p> <p>Jason: A proposal is out there for a Solar Store to go up behind the Chelsea Royal and there may be a plug in station installed</p> <p>Parking garage: Still looking at the what to install and update. Jason is recommending the 100 amp</p> <p>Question raised whether the solar panels planned for the top of the Brattleboro Food Co-op were completed or not: Chad followed up with Dick Earnst</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Report: Transportation</p>	<p>The subcommittee is collaborating with the Windham Regional Commission, United Way, Vital Communities, and Go Vermont to work with Transportation Roundtable businesses over the coming year, with the goals of assisting the businesses to promote alternative transportation among their staff members, and forming a transportation advocacy group composed of a diverse set of community partners. As the first step in the process, Roundtable businesses will administer a transportation survey prepared by Vital Communities to staff members, to determine opportunities and</p>	

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	<p>barriers. Survey results will be presented at a Roundtable meeting on October 9. Each business will commit to 2-3 projects during the year to promote alternative transportation, with a follow-up survey at the end of the year to measure progress.</p> <p>Need to frame the issue: The town is spending \$1million/year on energy costs." (includes transportation fuel, heating, electricity, etc).</p> <p>Week of Oct 14th is the transportation challenge</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Report: Project Atlantic</p>	<p>Was not able to meet in July.</p> <p>Next meeting is Monday Aug 19th at 5pm</p> <p>Proposal is to communicate where Brattleboro is at in terms of energy use/performance. Ralph created a simple info-graphic. The idea is to produce one every month or two to inform public on how we are doing. Looking at 12-26 info-graphs per year.</p> <p>Still getting feedback on what information to communicate. Ex: electric consumption or heating/cooling.</p> <p>Does the new wastewater plant have excess methane</p>	

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	<p>release or electricity? Answer: thinking it has no excess</p> <p>Is anyone looking at why transportation costs have gone up over the past year?</p> <p>Jed: Suggesting to pull data together, form new subcommittee and how to analyze and present how we are making progress.</p> <p>Need to frame the issue: The town is using a \$1million/year in transportation cost.</p> <p>Interested in creating subcommittee: Jed, Jason, Ralph and David. Paul will pull group together</p>	
<p>Sustainable Business Awards</p>	<p>5 nominations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windham Farm and Food Glenwood Collision Cultural Intrigue Brattleboro Food Co-Op Triple T Trucking <p>Paul will get a paragraph to for each nominee and send to committee</p>	

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<p>Communications-Annual Report</p>	<p>Group is now working on this. We have a draft annual report. The report needs more data, charts, and "pizzazz"</p> <p>Report will be ready by beginning of October in order to include EPA report data. Need time for committee to review report, discuss and approve by October meeting.</p>	<p>EPA and EV reports will be the basis for BEC's annual report to the selectboard.</p>
<p>Solar Property Taxes</p>	<p>Recap last meeting: States left it up to the towns to make a decision on how to proceed. State property tax for education: \$4/Kw rating on the systems over 10 Kw systems.</p> <p>CPG is the basis for taxation.</p> <p>The state taxation is not too prohibitive, however, the town could make it prohibitive depending on what rate is created.</p> <p>Discussion for what we want to recommend to selectboard:</p> <p>Jed: if the mission of the Energy Committee to encourage adoption of renewable energy installation, the committee should not support taxation of renewable energy installations.</p> <p>An appraisal of the installation will be needed.</p> <p>Bob: It may be in our best interest to recommend a small percentage rather than none at all.</p> <p>Jason: At this point in time, it is in the town's best interest</p>	

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	<p>not to assess a tax.</p> <p>Proposal to add a time frame to the recommendation that we not support a tax. Revisit in 5 years? Revisit in 7 years?</p> <p>Motion: Committee supports 0% tax rate for 5 years at which point, the town will re-evaluate. Review what other towns are doing.</p>	<p>Motion: Committee supports 0% tax rate for 5 years at which point, the town will re-evaluate. Review what other towns are doing. Motion carries unanimously.</p>
Next meeting	Monday, September 9 th , 2013. 5pm	