

Minutes: October 7th, 2013

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Lester Humphreys, Bob Rueter, Paul Cameron, Chad Simmons, Milton Eaton, Jason Cooper, Kathleen White, Ralph Meima

Guest: Bruce Whitney, Sheetan, Petal, David Schoales, Michael Bosworth

Topic	Discussion	Action
A). Call to order, Agenda review, Minutes approval	Approval of minutes	Approve Sept 9 th minutes. 5 in favor, 1 abstain
B). Announcements	<p>1). Tori M. will be resigning soon. We will have an opening on the committee. With Tori gone, we will have 9 members.</p> <p>2). Annual VCAN Conference will be Sat. Dec 7th. Agenda and registration will be coming in Oct. Location: Lake Morey Resort. Conference specifically for energy committees with workshops on energy issues. Provides energy committee members tools. Theme: Broadening the climate movement. Keynote: May Bove, head of 350.org.</p> <p>3). Paul and Guy Payne organizing Heat Pump workshop. Monday, Nov 18th starting at 5pm at Marlboro College Graduate Ctr</p> <p>4). Vermontivate (spring 2014). Group/game looking at the impact of climate. Sent by Karen Murray. Offer to come and do short presentation about Vermontivate at Wednesday, November 6th, 5-6pm @ Marlboro Grad in room 2E. www.vermontivate.com</p> <p>5). Sustainable Business winners: Cultural Intrigue, TTT Trucking, Brattleboro Food Co-Op. Paul will do presentation at upcoming selectobard meeting.</p> <p>6). Lester is weatherizing house using Best Energy. Did attic and other parts of house. Successful. Project was disruptive, messy, and expensive. Also had Brooks Mitchell Heating come to look at heating system. Added controller to heating system. Also fixed pipes. Hoping to save 10-20% just on heating upgrades. Heating system changes were painless. Weatherization was "painful," cost more money. Encouraging folks to</p>	

	<p>start with heating system upgrades as a way to start changing homes. Thinks this could be a good start (low hanging fruit). Milton mentioned that Dead River fuel was advertising switching to LP from oil.</p> <p>7). Reverse Cycle Chillers (industrial heat pumps). Anyone have any knowledge of these? Jed is interested in learning more about this. Jed also suggested combining with heat pump workshop. Bruce could look at what Neighborhood Works is working on (SERV). Jason is installing an air-to-water heat pump in 3-unit building. Daikin is the name of the manufacturer. Ed Whitaker is the consultant working with Jason that could be a resource.</p> <p>8). Bruce Whitney is a new coordinator with Windham Windsor Housing Trust as part of Neighborhood Works-Heat Squad (heatsquad.org). Heat Squad in Rutland County has done a large percentage of projects in that county. Soup to nuts (work, financing, support, etc.). Looking at whole house perspective. Bruce is willing to be guest speaker at future meetings.</p> <p>9). VT Bipartisan Center (VPC) is having a discussion about fracking (Oct 8th)</p> <p>10). Milton received a response from Con. Peter Welch is working on the problems related to ethanol.</p> <p>11). GMP working on project use ice on the tops of roofs to store heating/cooling.</p>	
<p>C). Household Carbon Footprint</p>	<p>1). Sheetan working at Omega as a Project Scientist. He is giving short presentations to various community groups. Goal to have similar presentations in neighborhoods</p> <p>2). Brief presentation on the impact of carbon on the climate. Look</p> <p>3). Will send electronic version to Paul</p> <p>4). Open to give presentation or have conversation via email, etc.</p> <p>Reminder by Lester: when responding via email, respond to individual.</p>	
<p>D). Subcommittee Reports:</p>		

<p>1). PACE</p>	<p>1). Background: Bratt town meeting approved PACE. Town has to approve 3 documents in order to move forward. Town attorney and finance director reviewing documents and have several questions. Still a lot of skepticism, especially from finance director.</p> <p>2) Town attorney and finance director contacting other towns that have done this already. Town finance director has not been involved in conversation until recently, so he is looking more answers.</p> <p>3). Enrollment period running Oct 1- Oct 30. Next enrollment is Feb 1, 2014</p> <p>4). Bank of Middlebury is the only institution financing fund</p>	
<p>2). VT Home Energy Challenge (VHEC)</p>	<p>1). Sat Oct 5th did VT Button Up Challenge</p> <p>2). Committee following up with folks by phone.</p> <p>3). Contractors (most) are booked out thru the end of the year.</p> <p>4). Numbers don't show up on the official list on Efficiency VT until the homeowner signs off on the final audit. There is a lag from end to when it is on the list. Project needs to be done by 12/31/13; paperwork needs to be done by 1/30/14.</p>	
<p>3). Efficiency</p>	<p>1). Town buildings. We are still waiting for funding to do energy audit on town buildings. Paul spoke with Patrick Moreland mid September. He expressed interest on town building. Best time is ASAP. No work yet from Patrick. What are the issues the town is concerned with? Could be the Honeywell project, so some may think an audit has already been done. The issue of spending of money on audit. Also, town officials are busy, so this may not be a priority. We (BEC) should find way to change level of priority. BEC could make appeal to town manager to make this a priority. Turnover on selectboard and town manager may necessitate having a new conversation. Lester: Meet with the new town manager to make direct appeal. If no response, go direct to</p>	<p>2). Efficiency subcommittee will do the following: a). Include at t end of town energy report, authorization and funding for town building audits. b). Speak with town manager and selectboard members (include report) and get by-in. Paul will do this ASAP. c). Present report with recommendation at Nov 5th selectboard meeting. No matter what, include energy audit authorization and funding request. Those interested in being a part of conversations: Paul, Milton, Jason, Lester</p>

	<p>selectboard. What do we do? At end of report, include authorization and funding for town building audits. Speak with town manager and newly elected selectboard reps to go over these issues again (provide full context as well).</p> <p>2). Town energy report. Paul working with Cynthia Veit (EPA), but because of govt shutdown, we are at a standstill. So we were on a holding pattern. Paul suggests we wait until it is down. Need this soon, as town budget process will begin soon. Present at Nov 5th selectboard meeting.</p> <p>3). Milton is on subcommittee unless he cannot make meetings.</p>	
4). Renewables	<p>1). Solar electric project. Paul spoke with Matt Wigham showed map of solar farm. Farm in Townsend. Not sure if contract with Integrated and site is signed.</p> <p>2). GMP is at 3.5% of 4% (guaranteed rate) of net metering.</p> <p>3). WSWMD project. Town would lease landfill and do bids for 2mw system and sell that power to local non-profits. WSWMD is interested in this proposal. Paul spoke with GMP and GMP is not willing to give WSWMD approval. It has to be 500kw or less. WSWMD is not interested in doing piecemeal, would rather do the full 2mw project. At this point, this seems like the proposal is dead. Idea, ask town to approve more than one net metering project. Could go through SPEED program, but the finances do not work. The idea was that approaching the non-profit communities would be more palatable proposal for the selectboard to approve, rather than for-profits. Bottom line, proposal won't work as presented. Do we ask the selectboard to consider another 500kw project or wait to see how Integrated project goes? Consensus, wait until Integrated project gets rolling so that we can report back to selectboard.</p>	
5). Transportation	1). Electric charging stations. Not up	

	<p>yet behind Stone Church.</p> <p>2). Is it possible to get plug in to install at garage? Yes, but who pays for the electricity. Patrick Moreland likes the idea, but needs to find a way to produce electricity (install solar panel). What about co-op? Interested, but can't afford now. Cost would be \$8,000.</p> <p>3). Survey sent out.</p>	
6). Project Atlantic	<p>1). Next meeting on Oct 21st.</p> <p>2). 16 students at BUHS working on energy related projects.</p> <p>3). Strolling of the Heifers folks to talk about fair displaying projects at Strolling in 2014</p> <p>4). Info graphics project is moving forward.</p> <p>5). Has website. Still being worked on. www.projectatlantic.org</p>	
7). Energy Data	<p>1). Subcommittee met over the last month. Proposal: write programs into get real-time data from town systems and get data downloaded into a spreadsheet in order to analyze data and make informed decisions. This is the first step. Jed would write programs to get things going. Hoping for easy automation. Ex: town spends \$1 mil/yr on energy (fuel, electricity, etc.) and it rises. We could analyze how this money is spent (used) and make more informed decisions.</p>	BEC approves pursuing this proposal. Unanimous.
8). Skating Rink	<p>1). Mission is to come up with multiple recommendations and to consider energy efficiency. Group has met twice. Group is feeling its way through what to accomplish. Group is hoping to take its time and be thorough. Bob brought up thermal needs.</p> <p>2). Having a consultant from Burlington to look at existing system to looking at piping and generic types of options the group has at its disposal. Looking for a proposal.</p> <p>3). Old equipment is being serviced. Heating system is being replaced. None of this is coming from bond pot.</p>	
E). Town Energy Report	<p>From Efficiency subcommittee report: Town energy report. Paul working with</p>	

	Cynthia Veit (EPA), but because of govt shutdown, we are at a standstill. So we were on a holding pattern. Paul suggests we wait until it is down. Need this soon, as town budget process will begin soon. Present at Nov 5 th selectboard meeting.	
F). Town Efficiency Fund	1). Michael Bosworth presents. Other towns (ex: Wilmington) have set up funds and use these funds to leverage other funds, fund efficiency projects. Great idea. Would have to be a question at town meeting.	1) Michael and Paul will draft proposal for BEC to consider.
G). Subcommittee Process Reminder	1). Subcommittee process works as follows: proposals made in Subcommittees, and then brought to BEC for discussion and approval. Could Bratt do a revolving fund?	
H). Next Meeting	Monday, November 4 th , 5pm	