

**Brattleboro Energy Committee  
Monday, September 10, 2012  
5:00 - 6:30 pm**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Location:  
Hanna Cosman Room, Brattleboro Municipal Center**

Present during Meeting: Lester Humphreys, Chair, Gary Straub, Bob Rueter (acting secretary), Andy Shephard, Jason Cooper, members of committee, Paul Cameron, ex officio. Also attending were Tad Montgomery, John Wilmerding (Finance), George Harvey

Minutes from August meeting: John W requested change in his comment to "JW spoke on public-private partnerships." With this change, minutes were approved by voice vote, no dissensions. Bob moved to approve, Gary 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**D. Check-In/Announcements**

- New Steering Committee has formed for the West River Trail: Jason Cooper, Lester Humphreys, Paul Cameron, Kathleen White & Alex Wilson. The Energy Committee is no longer supervising this project.
- Tad Montgomery spoke about the Green Energy Times, which always has an article on Community Projects & Energy Committees.
- George Harvey spoke on investigating renewable community projects in Europe
- His energy blog, [geoharvey.wordpress.com](http://geoharvey.wordpress.com), discusses many of these issues. He also writes for Green Energy Times.
- John Wilmerding spoke on presenting a workshop on community energy.

**E. Scheduling future meetings:** Decision made to switch to 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of month from here on out, pending Jason Cooper's approval. He showed up later & okayed. Next Meeting 10/1/12 at 5:00pm.

**F. Subcommittee reports**

**1. PACE:**

- Bob R reported on progress on getting approval from town attorney. He still has several concerns pending.
- John Wilmerding expressed interest in having the Finance Committee to speak to the issue of PACE at the town meeting when it comes to a vote.

## 2. Renewables:

- Paul & Lester brought a proposal for a solar power buy to the Select Board at its previous meeting. They asked the Energy Committee to vet proposals, not negotiate.
- The sub-committee is meeting with Soveren regarding a new proposal.
- The sub-committee will be going to Greenfield 9/12 to tour their Town Solar Farm.
- The town of Putney will be sharing their RFP with us.
- There is a Solar Electric & DHW workshop at the Marlboro Graduate Center on Saturday, Oct 20.

## 3. Transportation:

- The sub-committee met with Deb Sacks. They are going to focus on car & van pooling.
- There is a Fall Meeting of the Transportation Round Table which will feature Dave Blittersdorf of All Earth Renewables, which has incentives for its employees.
- They are examining the possibilities for the Keene-Brattleboro corridor.

## 4. Efficiency

- There is a question from the group for Steve Bartlett about when the next phase of LED lights will be going in.
- Regarding buildings, the sub-comm is still trying to find funding for audits.
- Discussion of Honeywell analysis by sub-comm. Recommending possible loan changes & meeting with Select Board
- Discussion of bringing the town forward on looking at both operational and capital costs when considering new projects. Example of Water Pump station plant, work area & heating the building. Discussed need for these considerations to come into play with projects for Town Hall & Fire Station.

## 5. European Model

No report; Ralph M not present. Mention that the Sierra Club has trips to Europe to look at their projects, and that John Wilmerding may lead such a trip with or without Sierra Club involvement.

## G. 2012-13 Work Plan

- Discussion of Scope of Solar Renewable work.
- Discussion of Non-Profit Energy Utility as an alternative to GMP. Wondering whether to include this in 2012-13 work plan.
- Paul to send out list of Work Plan items with detail.

## New Business

- John W spoke about Community Solar as part of Home PV/DHW Solar workshop. He will have a table there & build off of that. Discussion that that could be a totally separate workshop.

#### H. Feedback

- People spoke of missing Ralph M's presence.
- Question regarding how we handle absences on the committee. Lester?  
To check by-laws.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Rueter