

Minutes: 06/11/12

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Paul Cameron, Jason Cooper, Lester Humphreys, Ralph Meima, Bob Rueter, Andy Sheperd, Kathleen white

Guests: Guy Paine (SEVCA & Vt Green, and Rockinham Energy Committee), Jed Leslie and Micheal Bosworth (interested community members)

Topic	Discussion	Action
Agenda review and introductions		
May Minutes approval		May minutes approved unanimously
Announcements	<p>1. Paul gave sustainable business awards at last select board meeting. All award recipients were there to accept awards. Paul also gave BEC annual report.</p> <p>2. 3 BEC members are going off as their terms end at end of June (Peter Falion, Ann Moore Odell, Sarah Edwards). Glenn Letourneau is terminating due to schedule conflicts/school.</p>	Think about who you know that would be interested in serving on the BEC, and encourage interested folks to apply on town website by Monday 6/18 at 5 PM.
Guest Speaker--Guy Paine Energy Clusters	<p>Guy has been consulting with small businesses about getting information out about renewable energy accomplishments, how decisions are made, how effective they are. IVEC in Springfield has largest net metered solar array. Black River Produce is about to install 180 unity array. SEVCA is good at energy efficiency work, but what about water vapor management issues? Peter Yost put together a course on this for experienced workers. Builders do not often talk to each other about what products they use and find effective. People who took the course wanted to meet monthly to share info, do field tests on products. There is a need for infrastructure to move info around, network, partner to share complementary skills, promote ongoing training that doesn't cost a lot, or require too much time lost from job. Skilled workforce is a need. Looking at plausibility of developing a high performance energy efficiency practitioner internship. Building Performance Institute</p>	

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	<p>(BPI) offers training. SEVCA will be umbrella org and fiscal agent. High Meadows has asked SEVCA for proposal. Should be in newspaper within 2 months. Looking at a web of diverse organizations and businesses, including home appraisers, real estate agents, lending orgs, manufacturing, etc. People involved: Gary Goodemote, Paul Cameron, Steve Mindell, Jonathan Morse, Rick Holway, Peter Yost. Goal: figure out how to increase net metering use and improve home energy efficiency and deal with water vapor issues. Region to include Windham and Windsor, and northern and western MA. Lester suggested a website similar to Green Home Tourist for net-metering could be useful. Energy Clusters exist in upper Austria and Kingston, Ontario.</p>	
<p>Sub-Committee reports</p>	<p>1) European Model sub-committee (renamed: Town Resolution subcommittee): What can we learn from towns in Europe that have gotten off fossil fuels? Ralph's idea is to engage BUHS students to study these towns. A council of people in town could support the students by providing guidance. Students would be ground troupes to do the profiles of the towns and meet the requirement of town meeting reps' resolution. Ralph has a list of teachers to discuss this with, but has not moved ahead. Question: does success of Euro model translate to here? David Orr is doing something in Oberlin to get off fossil fuels. Subcommittee wants to move ahead but needs to know BEC supports this direction. BEC members gave go ahead.</p> <p>2) PACE: There are still questions re: liability of towns in case of foreclosure. Bob Fisher thinks Brattleboro might be more comfortable after seeing other towns go through with PACE. Town won't go ahead until Bob Fisher gives go ahead, and he's being cautious. Vote might wait until March 2013 town meeting. The 36 towns that approved PACE will have a subscription period later this summer.</p>	<p>1) Ralph will talk to David Orr and teachers at BUHS.</p> <p>2) Paul will set up meeting with Bob Fisher and Barb Sondag to find out what it will take to get them to "YES, let's go ahead with PACE"..</p>

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	<p>Efficiency Vt now has the funds. Goal: town meeting to accept Bratt as a PACE district and is OK with EV administering the program. Lester suggests setting up a meeting with Barb Sondag and Bob Fisher.</p> <p>3) Renewables: Series of meetings with David McManus of Delta Energy Group brainstorming potential sites for solar energy. WSWMD is possible site. Met with Bob Spencer, Dir. to see if he wants to do a formal appraisal. Delta would own the panels, rent the space from WSWMD, power could be sold to investors or to WSWMD, or to a net-metering group. Buy-out option for panels. Space would continue to be leased. Integrated Solar, Michael Wiggan-- there's a ballast system for putting solar on top of landfills. Committee is meeting with Barb Sondag tomorrow to assess town interest and inform her about it. No town property is available to site solar, so shifting to private land. Latchis roof is a potential, Latchis is interested in the income. Also setting up a meeting with Bratt Retreat. David has talked with Winstanley and Fibermark.</p> <p>4) Energy Efficiency:</p> <p>a) Streetlights: Developed a plan for conversion to LED. Meeting with Barb tomorrow about it. Potential to save \$70K/year. Tariff on LEDs is less than current lights. EV will pay difference if replacing newer lights. No cost to the town.</p> <p>b) EV rolling out statewide home weatherization challenge this fall. Each town participating sets a goal of x homes will weatherize in the next year. Prizes, programs to help reach goal--workshops, door to door, energy fairs, financing. Paul Markowitz wants to meet with us 10 AM 6/12/12 via laptop. Lots of potential. Paul would like feedback on weatherization of new buildings-- how to encourage owners/builders to comply.</p> <p>c) Low interest loans for weatherization and renewables: Kathleen has called most banks in the area. Arne Hammarlund of People's is willing to meet to discuss, but doesn't see the bank offering any new loan</p>	<p>4c. Kathleen will continue to talk with bank personel about this issue.</p>

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	<p>program, because home equity loans are so low. The other banks need to talk to their central offices.</p> <p>5) Transportation: Finished Way to Go Challenge. Go Vt is looking for proposals to fund additional efforts to promote carpooling and using alternative transportation. Paul talked to Deb Sachs about having a meeting to help us put together a proposal. This will probably entail working more with our business roundtable doing surveys, etc.</p>	
New Business	none	
Next meeting	Changed to Monday July 16, due to vacations.	