

Minutes

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Date: 3/12/12

Present: Paul Cameron, Lester Humphreys, Anne Moore Odell, Bob Rueter, Kathleen White

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Agenda review, Approval of Feb '12 minutes</p>	<p>No quorum</p>	<p>Approval of minutes postponed until March meeting</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>1. Informal meeting of regional energy committees (Marlboro, Bratt, Dummerston, Putney, Rockingham, Halifax, Guilford). Wednesday, 4/4/12, 6-8PM, MGC: Light food, report on Renewable Energy Gallery, other speakers, sharing of Energy Committee projects. 2. BTU & BCP present Biomass workshop, Sat. 5/19/12, 9-12, MGC. For homeowners looking to start heating with pellets or wood stoves. Range of stoves/furnaces available and costs, potential cost savings. Jason will speak about his district heating system and give a tour. Vendors will also give presentations. Looking for volunteers. 3. Discussion about free pellet stove opportunity for low income family. Decided not to get involved-- too many unknowns.</p>	<p>Bob Rueter volunteered for Biomass workshop. Others interested, contact Paul.</p>
<p>Sustainable Business Awards</p>	<p>Paul waiting for information from Cultural Intrigue. Lester concerned that he knows CI owner and thinks he should abstain from voting. As there is no money involved in the award, all present felt there's no conflict of interest.</p>	<p>Once Paul gets info from CI, he will send info out on all nominees to everyone so we can vote by email.</p>
<p>Subcommittee Reports</p>	<p>PACE: Bob Fisher says there may be a way to get around changing the town charter. Town reps are having a special meeting in June to vote on new police and fire dept. PACE could be voted on at this meeting. Barb, Bob Fisher and selectboard are all for this, unless there is an issue with adding it to the special town meeting. Renewables: 3 homes now on Renewable Gallery site. 4 more pending. BDCC and solar: waiting to hear from Omega Optical</p>	<p>Paul plans to open Renewable Gallery to the other Energy Committees. If you know of good candidates, let Paul know.</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>about their project. Bank loans for Energy Efficiency and Renewables: low interest loans available now at River Valley Credit Union and BS&L (fixed rate home equity). BCP had a partnership with BS&L in 2004 on this. Ads went out to every homeowner with minimal response. BEC could work with Dan Yates to come up with a proposal for a name for the loan and lower the interest rate, and how to advertise it. Could distribute to energy efficiency businesses to give to their clients. Could add loan info on BEC website.</p> <p>Transportation: Way to Go week May 14-18. Monthly roundtable meetings continue. Public forum on Economic Benefits of Biking and Walking, March 15, on VIT. Fossil Fuel Freedom doing a public forum. Active Living Workshop follow-up meetings March 19, 5:30, Town Planning Dept. and April 11, place and time TBD.</p> <p>Efficiency: Streetlights: Paul and Bob did some auditing of lights last Thursday- High St, Forest, Chase, across Common, Tyler and Walnut St. Distances were appropriate. About 5 could be turned off. 2 on the Common. Steve Barrett said DPW has been turning off 5-10 lights/year for a long time. Many lights on Main St are too bright. Priority for good lighting is crosswalks and intersections. Jeff Nugent worked with Rockingham on their streetlight project, has GIS contact at CVPS and is on board to help by doing a map for us. Goal is to create a plan for which lights to turn off, and what intensity of LED to change lights to in the different zones, then present to DPW.</p>	<p>Go to BEC page on Brattleboro.org to see improvements Paul and Julia Perks have been making. Include Energy Efficiency loans on next streetlight committee meeting agenda.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>1. April 2011 BEC gave annual report to Select board. 2. Paul planning a walk-through of all town buildings, Thursday, March 29, to look for opportunities to save energy for Energy Leadership Challenge. Brattleboro signed on to this pledge to reduce electric energy use by 7.5% by 2013.</p>	<p>Paul will write a draft annual report and send to BEC members for feedback, before next meeting.</p> <p>Paul will send out email with date/time for energy walk-through so others can join.</p>

Topic	Discussion	Action
Next meeting		April 9, 2012, 5 to 6:30 PM.