

Minutes:

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Paul Cameron, Josh Hilsdon, Lester Humphreys, Tori Managan, Ralph Meima, Bob Rueter, Kathleen White.

Topic	Discussion	Action
Agenda review; Introduction of new members	All members introduced themselves. New members were welcomed and Josh and Tori shared background info about themselves.	
Minutes approval		Minutes approved unanimously
Announcements	Ralph: 1. VECAN day long conference was a rich experience. Encouraged all to attend next year. 2. SEON, MGC and WRC are organizing a presentation with Margaret Cheney and Bob Walker about their visit in Germany to observe their energy systems, Feb 11. Ralph hoping he and George Harvey could have 1/2 hour to discuss Project Atlantic.	
Sub-Committee reports	1. Vt Home Energy Challenge: Statewide effort by EV to weatherize significant # of homes in 2013. 3% of occupied units in each participating town=178 in Brattleboro. Paul is one of 6 regional coordinators. Highest weatherization rate in region wins \$10K toward and energy project. \$100 off every audit done (repaid by EV to auditor). Weatherization incentives continue up to \$2K cap). Local meeting held last week with Paul Markowitz of EV. 8 towns were represented-- Paul hopes they will all sign up. Kick off event Sat Jan 12. Paul will speak to the Rotary Club Jan 16 and the Landlord's group. Volunteers needed to go door to door and do home visits. Training to be held end of January. Various strategies identified. Transition Town folks involved. Materials include yard signs, flyers, posters, pledge forms. ID people who have had the work done and ask them to invite friends and neighbors to home to talk it up. 2. Efficiency: LED Streetlights: test areas nearly complete. Subcommittee needs to check areas to ensure	2. Streetlight committee meeting today to schedule assessment of new neighborhood. Decided Jan 28, 5:30.

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	<p>all completed. Recent meeting with Steve Barrett, DPW and GMP: Discussed importance of installing lights correctly, so they don't shine in inappropriate places-- message was heard. Neighborhood between S. Main and Canal is next. New LED lights have saved town \$6400 already.</p> <p>3. Renewables: a. Solar Electric project: BEC proposal to put RFP out approved by selectboard. 6 companies interested in bidding. Meeting 1/14 to get next steps going. b. Electric Car charging station: Jed not here to report.</p> <p>4. Transportation: a. Business Roundtable next meeting Jan 16. Ross McDonald of VTrans to speak on improve GoVt system. and Melissa from Vanpooling will speak. b. Bratt-Keene Corridor: Summit in the works for April. Will invite stakeholders (employers, planners, etc), share facts, offer resources for alternatives to Single Occupancy Vehicles, launch feasibility study for bus transportation on that corridor. Keene regional commission planner, Monadnock ride share director, WRC, and consultant Deb Sachs involved in the planning.</p> <p>5. PACE: Selectboard will vote Jan 15, 6:15, whether to put Brattleboro becoming a PACE district on town meeting warning. Bob Fisher feels selectboard will approve. Funds are not yet available statewide. This vote would prepare the town to be ready to accept the funds when they are available. There is no risk for town to vote yes on this.</p> <p>6. Town Meeting Resolution: now called Project Atlantic: Ralph has been making overtures to teachers at BUHS. Michelle Hood, Science dept chair, plans to incorporate project into advanced biology class. Other key people are in line to be met with. Sees this year as pilot phase. Next year student projects will be visible-- studying what other European cities comparable in size to Brattleboro are doing to solve their energy issues. Plans to have monthly meeting with the various stakeholders</p>	<p>PACE subcommittee to prepare public education campaign before town meeting.</p> <p>6. Ralph will resend his concept paper to all BEC members.</p>

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	and give update at 2013 town meeting. Josh has webinars he developed while in Finland that could be useful to this project.	
New business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Idea to find intern for BEC. 2. Is there an opportunity for BEC to influence the Putney Rd Master Plan coming to fruition? 3. Kathleen suggested interested BEC members go to Jan 14 special selectboard meeting to support Land use Chapter in draft town plan--lots in it about bike/pedestrian infrastructure improvements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paul will look into SIT Graduate Institute to see if any interns are available to work on any of our subcommittees. 2. Paul will ask Gary Goodemote and Brattleboro Planners if they would speak to BEC about this.
Next meeting topic and speakers	<p>Next meeting is Feb 4. Jed had expressed interest in inviting Clean Cities Initiative to talk about electric car charging stations.</p> <p>Ralph suggests we discuss the question of a carbon tax or excise tax on fuel at a future meeting.</p>	