

Brattleboro Energy Committee Minutes 01/09/2017

In Attendance: Michael Bosworth, Tom Finnell, George Harvey, Mary McLoughlin, Tad Montgomery, Kathleen White

Guests: Marion Major, WRC; Becky Jones, Daniel Quipp, 350.org; Franz Reichsman, Town Finance committee

Meeting called to order at 5:02 PM with introductions

A. Agenda review

B. Approval of 12/05/16 minutes: several corrections/additions noted: 1. meeting adjourned at 6:55, 2. add "renewable" to siting bill in section C; 3. correct spelling of Mary's last name to McLoughlin. Tad had sent a correction that neither Kathleen or Tad brought to meeting. Action: Table approval of minutes to February meeting. Kathleen will bring all corrections to be approved.

C. Announcements:

1. Tad: Marion Major and Tad will meet with John Allen of selectboard 1/10 at 4:10 in Hannah Cosman room to discuss "modern wood heat and hear his concerns.
2. Michael: Selectboard having special meeting 1/10 to discuss solar credits. He is hoping that they will agree to contract with WSWMD solar array. Franz contributed that Next Sun will pay town \$34K in "disputed" costs, which the town could then use to contract with WSWMD.
3. Michael: SEON is presenting a workshop for homeowners on 1/23, 6 PM at MCGC: "Know before you Build" . Contact admin@SEON.info to RSVP.
4. Tad: Efficiency Vt has a designated downtown program where they choose 2 towns every 6 months, descend on the towns and create a lot of "hoopla" for weatherization. Under auspices of Home Energy Advocates, Tad is working to get funds from WRC to do something similar in Brattleboro, to include renewables.
5. George: Lazard Assoc did research on cost of various energy sources and found solar and wind are the least costly.
6. Mary: this is her last meeting. She will be taking a class on Monday evenings. Enjoyed working with energy committee. All expressed we will miss having her on the committee.
7. Michael: Still working on the carbon tax panel discussion idea. We need an impartial, neutral moderator and Chris Lenois of WKVT has agreed to play that role. Now we need to round up some panelists, both pro and con.

D. Act 174 (Energy Planning & Renewable Siting bill) highlights with Marion Major: see handouts. This bill was developed so towns could have more say on the Comprehensive Energy Plan (90% of Vt energy will be renewables by 2050). Regional plans and town plans inform each other and inform the every 5 year update of the Comprehensive Energy Plan. Incentive for towns to update the Energy element of their plan is that if a town plan meets standards, the PSB will give "substantial deference" to applications for renewable energy projects from that town (vs "due consideration"). An energy element update would look thoroughly at resources, needs, scarcities, costs and problems within transportation and other sectors, like home heating and electricity use; use analysis and targets, pathways and policies and mapping. WRC will work with towns on mapping preferred sites and unsuitable areas for renewable energy projects. WRC has collected and will send data to towns by April 2017. 3 pilot towns will be chosen to receive

assistance from WRC with their energy element update. Brattleboro did not apply, for various reasons. There was some feeling in the Energy Committee that our town should apply. Action: Michael will bring this up at Selectboard meeting during public participation.

E. Community Energy Dashboard: Put together by Energy Action Network, VNRC, VEIC, VPSB, etc. RPCs plans and maps will go on it. Towns will be able to put local plans and maps on it as well. Rob Fish is coming 11 AM on 1/12 to demonstrate how to use it. Open to public. Could be a helpful tool for community organizing on reducing energy use.

F. Project/subcommittee reports:

1. Energy Efficiency: Recent idea is to share town energy efficiency plan/audits with Town Finance committee. Purpose of Finance committee is to know where the town's \$ is going and how to save town money. If doing the recommended energy efficiency changes would save the town significant funds, the finance committee wants to know about it. Action: Tad will meet with Town Finance committee on 1/11.
2. Renewable Energy: no update
3. Transportation: planning to hold subcommittee meeting in February.
4. Zero Energy Now: no update
5. Integrated Energy Systems: would like to develop a microgrid on North end of town. GMP would need to be a key player. Committee hasn't been able to reach key people yet.
6. Energy Data: covered in Dashboard discussion.

G. Feedback: thanks to Marion for coming and presenting. Thanks to Franz for coming to represent Finance committee.

Next meeting: Monday, Feb 6, 5 PM. May invite Rob Fish to come speak about the Energy Dashboard.