

Minutes: February 3, 2014**Group:** Brattleboro Energy Committee**Attendees:** Lester Humphreys, Bob Rueter, Paul Cameron, Tad Montgomery, Sheetal Kumar Chanda, Jed Leslie, Ralph Meima, Milt Eaton, Kathleen White**Guest:** Tyler Austin, Integrated Solar

Topic	Discussion	Action
A). Call to order, Agenda review, Minutes approval	David Cohen unable to do presentation today. January Minutes approved, with 1 abstention	Invite David to present at next meeting. □ Added discussion of past BEC decisions to today's agenda.
B). Check-in, Introductions, Announcements	1. Regional Energy Forum planned for energy committees 2/24/14 at MGC 5:30-8:00 PM, sponsored by WRC and VECAN. Updates, Energy Scorecard, legislative snapshot, etc. □ 2. Paul speaking about BEC projects at POS Climate Change Cafe, 6:30 PM, Brooks Library □ 3. EV trying to ramp up construction of zero Energy homes. Paul passed out Alex Wilson's book, Your Green Home, 2006	
C). Past BEC decisions	New members have not seen by-laws. Older members may need to refresh. Discussion about Open Meeting laws: all decisions must be made at BEC meeting; decisions made at sub-committee meetings are recommendations to full committee. Sub-committee meetings must be fewer than quorum, or meeting must be warned. Once Zoe officially resigns, we will have 9 members, quorum of 5. Paul is non-voting member. Emails must be one way information only-- no discussion, no voting,-- except among sub-committee	Paul to send BEC by-laws out to all members.

	<p>members. □ Our decisions would be limited to proposals that are cash flow + or neutral. Selectboard told us initially we were not to discuss Vt Yankee or nuclear power. We have tradition of once a decision is made, point person brings it forward to town mgr or selectboard; we present ourselves as a united front. If someone has a strong opinion different from the committee, he/she can write up own opinion if desires. Past decisions can be changed.</p>	
C). Subcommittee Reports:		
1). PACE	<p>VLCT helping Brattleboro survey the 20 or so towns that have passed PACE. Lester sent letter to Bob Fisher suggesting he talk with VEIC. Probably won't be quick resolution. Since approval of PACE, 60 applications were requested, but only 6 homes have applied. 7% interest rate is deterrent.</p>	
2). VT Home Energy Challenge (VHEC)	<p>Brattleboro is still in the lead. Feb 15 is deadline.</p>	
3). Efficiency □ a) Town buildings (includes town skating rink committee)	<p>Several contractors are available to do energy audits on town buildings. We need to find out if we need an RFP for this. Selectboard will propose to town mtg that \$50K (from dissolved Ag Land Fund) be put in a 1 time Energy Efficiency fund-- unsure if some of fund will be used for audits. Chuck Clerici suggested we use the fund to do some of the projects in the Efficiency</p>	<p>Paul is putting together a 1 pg fact sheet for town meeting rep packet. He will share with BEC members first.</p>

	<p>report, (ie replacing light bulbs & hot water heater) to show quick energy savings. BEC can make recommendations about how to spend the money, or Town Mgr can decide, unless it's above a threshold, then it goes to Selectboard. <input type="checkbox"/> No discussion of skating rink.</p>	
<p>4). Renewables <input type="checkbox"/> a) Solar electric project <input type="checkbox"/> b) Electric car charging stations</p>	<p>a) Green Lantern is putting in permits; is on schedule to start town solar electric project in Spring. They want to propose town doing another system on another site they have. Sub-committee recommends that IF town wants to do another project, they put out an RFP for another 500kw project. Proposed changes in RFP: if there is a market for solar credits, town and solar business would split credits 50/50; option to buy system after 7 yrs or beyond. Vote: All in favor (except Tad recused himself) of above BEC recommendation to town. <input type="checkbox"/> Sub-committee asked Lester to look into how solar systems are being taxed by Listers and develop a proposal on how they should be taxed. Current proposal: 5 yr moratorium by town on taxing these systems. If the state is not taxing them, the town should not tax them. <input type="checkbox"/> b. 4 possible electric car charging sites: Solar Store in W. Bratt; Transpt Ctr (need a grant to install. Voltex offered to lend a high speed charger--Town Mgr</p>	

	declined); MGC: no \$, might install if grant available; Stone Church: may be active in a few days. ANR may have another round of grant funding for this.	
5). Transportation	BMH is now doing the Smart Commute survey. Sub-committee mtg Feb 6.	
6). Project Atlantic	Students of Mike Auerbach wrapping up projects, finalizing newscast style video clips. Creating material with idea to be presented to public. Should have a fair amount of information to share. BCTV will do some showcasing of projects.	
7). Energy Data	Paul & Jed met with Town Mgr. He gave 2 months data of town expenses. If Jed can convert to usable data (graphs, hot-button items, aggregate all energy related expenditures, put in data base) for BEC, we will get it monthly so we can track. Should be helpful to town as well.	Lester will send Jed graph he created for Selectboard so Jed can create similar graphs. David Gartenstein had said he would like to see graph adjusted for degree days; also have someone look at it for mistakes, faulty assumptions, etc. Jed and Milt will look these over. Send latest graph to all.
E) Tyler Austin, Integrated Solar	Works with Green lantern Capital to finance solar projects. He is available to help sketch out any new ideas for projects.	
F). Next Meeting	Monday, March 3, 2014 at 5:00pm □	