

Minutes: 02/03/2015

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Michael Bosworth, Paul Cameron, Jason Cooper, Milt Eaton, Lester Humphreys, Kathleen White. Guests: David Schoales, Katrina Wilson

Topic	Discussion	Action
Approval of January Minutes	After Tad made some suggestions/corrections, January 2015 minutes were approved 6-0-1.	Corrections needed: Dan "Ingold" is correct name; add: "per year" to net metering credits from solar array; add: "Paul to follow up contacting WSWMD". Chad will make those changes.
Announcements	<p>Paul: 1. Solar campaign will be called "Brattleboro Solar Season". Next meeting Thursday 2/5 at 5 PM at planning dept. 2. Vt Council on Rural Development is holding a summit on Feb 18, 9-5 at VTC Randolph: Creating Prosperity and Confronting Climate Change. 3. Integrated Energy Systems mtg to be 2/6, Planning Dept. 4. Peter Elwell, new TM will come to next BEC mtg March 2.</p> <p>Michael: series of SEON related videos on BCTV.</p> <p>David Schoales: the idea of capital improvements being analyzed for cost/benefits of energy saving improvements has been tabled for 2 months by Selectboard. Capital project/improvement needs to be defined. The public is not used to debating tax impacts of projects (usually debate cost of projects). David encouraged BEC members to become town meeting reps, so we can stand up and speak for this issue. The police-fire committee needs to buy into the concept. Last year BEC members attended a police fire committee mtg and persuaded them to agree to heat pumps. It might be worth attending a meeting again, but nothing will happen until after town mtg.</p>	
Sub-committee reports	1. Town Energy Efficiency Plan: Paul & Lester met with Patrick. 8 recommendations for energy savings, 6 audits of town buildings. Patrick wants to issue an RFQ (request for qualifications) rather than RFP. The contractor submits their qualifications for doing audits, rather than a	

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	<p>bid for the job. Gives more flexibility to do hourly work to get the job done. The chosen firm would meet with Patrick and BEC to develop a plan, with costs negotiated then. Preferable because each building is different. Could even use a different firm for each, as needed. Asbestos assessments in library and municipal ctr will be done by Catamount. Patrick has more time now to work on this. The energy efficiency fund will be carried over to next fiscal year.</p> <p>2. Renewables: a. no update on solar tax.</p> <p>b. WSWMD has received 11 proposals to install solar array (inc Soveren, Int Solar, Green Lantern and Windham Solar). Will make decision in March. Discount ranges from 9-35%; Size range 2.5-5 MW. Town has received offer to purchase net metering credits from Next Sun & Green Lantern (GL offering 12.5-15% discount—they can wait 2-3 months for response. Next Sun offer is 431 kwh at 15% discount. They are putting pressure on for a decision. Their array is already built in Westminster and they have extra credits that school board doesn't need). Subcommittee wants to wait until we hear from WSWMD. Motion that we continue to wait. Approved 6-0-</p> <p>c. Solar Campaign: committee met 2 weeks ago and changed focus from traditional Solarize campaign (1 installer). Instead will promote solar in general April-October, calling it Brattleboro Solar Season. Goals: increase # of solar installations (currently 66) & double total solar capacity from 761 kw; make it easier for homeowners & businesses to go solar. Kick-off event mid-April. Inviting local installers to be involved in planning. 5 coming to meeting. Hope to create brochure, website, do tabling, use social media, have a free workshop, offer low interest loans through VSECU (using Yankee settlement \$). Committee members: Paul, Kathleen, Michael, John Ungerleider, Cimbria Badenhansen, Tad M. Proposal: make this an official subcommittee of BEC. Seeing no conflict, motion</p>	

