

Minutes: March 2, 2015

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Town Energy Coordinator: Paul Cameron

Attendees: Michael Bosworth, Jason Cooper, Lester Humphreys, Kathleen White, Chad Simmons, Tad Montgomery, Thomas Finnell, Jason Cooper, Bob Reuter

Guest: David Schoales, Ralph Meima, Peter Elwell,

Topic	Discussion	Action
A). Call to order, Agenda review, Feb 3 minutes approval		-Minutes passed 6,0,0 with edits
B). Check-in, Introductions, Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Ann Britton resigned from BEC. We have two vacancies. Quorum is 6. Tom will ask George Harvey-Thursday, March 5. 4pm. Planning Dept. conversation with Larry Sprague of the Sustainable Energy Funding Program-6pm Thursday, March 5. WSWMD to discuss solar project proposals. Interviewing solar project candidates. Public meeting-Town meeting is Saturday, March 21 and info meeting on town budget at March 16, 6pm at Academy School-Solar Season subcommittee meeting. Wednesday, March 4 at 4:30pm at the planning Dept.	
C). Discussion: Peter Elwell, Brattleboro Town Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-History of BEC.- Paul co-founded Brattleboro Climate Protection in 2002. He was appointed Town Energy Coordinator in 2007.-First project, \$1mil Honeywell project (heating and lighting systems). Guaranteed savings project (est. \$30k savings/year for town). Project collaboration with town and school district-LED lights in transportation center. Savings of \$5k/year-BEC formed in 2009-Paul got BEC involved in VT Energy Committee Action Network (VECAN)-Appointed by selectboard-BEC's first project was working with Steve Barrett and Green Mtn Power on eliminating streetlights and replacing all with LEDs. Saved \$81k in FY 2014-The mission of BEC is to assist Brattleboro residents, businesses, and	

	<p>Town government in reducing energy consumption and costs through conservation, increased energy efficiency, and conversion to renewable energy sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Went over last BEC report to selectboard -BEC goal is to give feedback to town. Report back to town the results of town improvement and savings -Carbon emissions going up even though electricity use going down. Propane cost going up because increased used of propane from heating oil - \$131,745 in annual energy-related net savings to the Town as of FY 2014 -Home Energy Challenge (HEC) grant recipient. \$10k awarded to retrofit town lights to LED's along with other town projects related to energy and cost savings. -Net metered solar electric project in Westminster (500kw system) is estimated to provide \$16,250 in annual savings -Electric car stations installed in parking garage -Selectboard allocated \$45k to a fund to do energy audits on prioritized town buildings. Opportunities exist that did not exist when Honeywell did their project -What we are looking at now: Lifecycle analysis. Some of newer buildings are not performing well from an energy use lens. Proposal: when considering capital projects, look at full cost of project rather than just upfront cost. Peter's response: The Selectboard has a timeline for analyzing feedback on a proposal for taking this approach to projects. -PACE for Brattleboro. What is it? People can take out loans to do energy work on their house. The loan and energy savings stay with house. Paid off through tax payments. Two step process: First, Brattleboro sets up district. Second, Selectboard approval of 	
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project moving forward and accepting loans. VEIC manages the loans. Process slowed down. Brattleboro approved process through RTM, but Selectboard has yet to sign legal documents. Interest rates are much lower now than when originally approved. Now is a good time to move forward with signing the legal documents. Peter: not comfortable talking about it at tomorrow's selectboard meeting, but in two weeks from now. Peter's question: where is the process at now? Paul's response: Bob Fisher has some questions on the legal implications. Peter will make contact with Bob Fisher tomorrow (Tuesday) and get the status. All that remains is the legal agreement between VEIC and town of Brattleboro. Selectboard would need to approve agreement.

- BEC was awarded the Best Energy Committee in VT (2013).
- Data work. BEC worked with town finance department to look at cost of energy use by town. Does not included Kwh use
- Peter: Interested at policy for lifecycle cost. Excited to see solar projects. All positive momentum and commitment
- Paul. We are setting an example for other communities
- BEC looking at cost savings, improving peoples lives and using less energy.
- Asbestos remediation moving forward. Patrick is point on that project.
- Michael: New subcommittee set up, Integrated Energy Systems, looking at larger systems to improve town energy. Ex: micro grid designation (improves resiliency, shifts to bring power generation within community, supported by town plan). Peter's pledge is to make processes easier than harder.
- Project Atlantic: George Harvey sharing about what other communities across the globe were doing around energy efficiency and production.

Subcommittee of BEC to study the impact of other community energy work. Collaboration began with high

	<p>school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Incorporate police and fire project into lifecycle analysis. If fire project moves forward without police, it would be difficult to incorporate lifecycle analysis. It could be incorporated into the police project. If police and fire are lumped together, lifecycle analysis could be incorporated into the whole project. Ex: inclusion of propane boiler/heat pump boiler combo into project. 	
D). Meeting minutes advisory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jan Anderson asking to designate one person to send her meetings minutes. Paul will be this person. -Also, not suppose to discuss changes to draft minutes over email. -Clarification of process: One member can send proposed changes to draft minutes to Secretary. All changes are collected by the secretary and discussed/approved at following meeting. 	
E). Subcommittee Reports:		
1). Energy Efficiency a. Town efficiency plan	<p>a) Town energy efficiency plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Selectboard asked BEC to come up with plan on how to spend money -Currently, BEC is still gathering quotes. Plan is still in draft -Plan includes list of estimated cost/savings of project proposals that do not include audits -Peter will work with Patrick and Paul on moving forward. Patrick is suggesting to use an RFQ. Draft RFQ created and on March 17 selectboard agenda -Selectboard: Let's do the things that can have an impact, do the audits then look at what else we can do. -Goal is to do "investment grade audits" moving forward. RFQ reflects this type of audit 	
2). Renewables a. Solar electric projects b. Solar campaign	<p>a) Solar electric projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ralph and Green Latern (GL) have offered a formal proposal (based on the informal proposal originally proposed to BEC) to the town. BEC voted in last meeting to not move forward on this 	

	<p>proposal. BEC is waiting for the results of the WSWMD solar project process to move forward</p> <p>b) Solar Campaign “Solar Season”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kick off event May 2 -Campaign will run for 5 months (May 1-Sept 30) -Goal: have at least 100 Brattleboro residents or businesses install a solar electric system or purchase a share in community solar project during the campaign period. Tiered incentive structure, depending on how many people participate: \$.05/0-33; \$.1/33-66; \$.15/66 and up -Solar campaign is a subcommittee of BEC -Project will be carried out by Brattleboro Climate Protection -Next meeting on March 4th at 4:30pm at planning dept. 	
3) Integrated Energy Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continuing to meet and learning about micro grids. First by Green Mountain Pwr (ex: Rutland). Second by Dan Ingold who did Winstanley and military installations -Micro grids in Brattleboro ex: hospital, high school -Next step is to visit Green Mtn Power in Rutland -What is the benefit to GMP? Michael, not entirely sure why, but they see their business in a whole other way. Avoiding power plants. -Jason: GMP is a transition company. They have to be capable of delivering at peak power. Decentralization of power will mean there is a need for stabilization -Ex: electric cars charged at night, when is demand is low. This will increase demand at off-peak times. 	
4). PACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Efficiency Vermont has announced a new Heat Saver loan program with low interest rates. Paul passed around flyers 	
5). Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Nothing to add 	
6). Project Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Some question about more support needed from BEC to high school. Lester and Paul sent email to teacher and 	

	looking for how we can help. Perhaps invite Mike Auerbach to a BEC meeting.	
F) Feedback and next meeting date / topic / speaker	Monday, April 6 th , 5-7pm at the Hanna Cosman Room, Brattleboro Municipal Center	Invite Efficiency VT and/or Mike Hebert (Vernon Rep. on the House Energy & Nat. Res. Cmte) to future meeting