

**Minutes: March 3, 2014**

**Group:** Brattleboro Energy Committee

**Attendees:** Lester Humphreys, Paul Cameron, Tad Montgomery, Sheetal Kumar Chanda, Jed Leslie, Ralph Meima, Kathleen White, Jason Cooper, Milton Eaton

**Guest:** David Cohen, Peter Thurrell, Dan Ingold

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
A). Call to order, Agenda review, Minutes approval	1) Motion to approve meeting minutes	1) Approved February meeting minutes. All in favor. 0 deny. 0 abstain.
B). Check-in, Introductions, Announcements	1) Announcements: Peter from Sovern Solar (previously applied for town solar project and was passed up for another), found way to fully finance town solar project, locally. Asking local individuals to buy panels \$2.55/w and guarantee \$250 per year electric credit, after community member pays full amount. Tad: this is a wonderful compliment to Solarize. Lester: provide numbers for committee. 2) Wed. March 12 and Noon brown bag lunch at Rivergarden re: weatherization and cold climate heat pumps. 3) Thur March 13 from 5:30-7:30pm. Zero energy homes @ Marlboro Grad Center 4) Thur March 20 <sup>th</sup> at municipal requirements for above code and VT energy code 5) Sat March 22. Representative town meeting in Brattle. Heat Squad needs volunteers to staff table before meeting begins and during lunch break 6) Presentation by Sheetal to get feedback/critique of his previous presentation. (moved to April).	
C). Presentation: "Slow Transportation"	1) Dave Cohen presentation. Doing this presentation in many locations. Senses always engaged in transporting ourselves. "How we carry ourselves across." Automobiles changed the landscape of our streets (went from "the commons" (people played) to one of just driving. Sensory deprivation from driving. More driving means less healthy activity and more pollution. What is "Slow transportation."? Forms of transport that engage our bodies,	

	<p>enhance our relationships and minimize pollution. 3 tiers: walking, bicycles, electronic-assist bicycles. Ex: bike share programs. Cargo bikes: transport people and things. Really taking off in urban areas in the US. Euro countries are able to do long-term studies. Burrows in Brattleboro is now selling Ybua bikes. 6 families locally have bought bikes. Year long riding possible. Also selling electric assist. Exciting design is the "Elf" (solar-powered, pedal-powered design). Engages our limbic part of our brain. Looking at support by our Transportation committee and state level support to this work.</p>	
C). Subcommittee Reports:		
Subcommittee Communication	<p>1) Lester and Paul spoke about needing more formal structure for sub committee and committee structure. Ex: Need for formal chair of each subcommittee and formal report back to full energy committee. Most nodded in agreement. Question: does this mean the chairperson needs to be in the loop for all communication? Yes. If a subcomm has quorum, it must be warned publically. Otherwise, no other legal/guidance issues. Responsibilities would be: communicate with subcomm members, keep everyone informed, and communicate with Lester. Additionally, keep one main contact for each subcomm. Formalizing communication.</p>	<p>1) Motion to formalize process. All in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstain</p>
1). PACE	<p>1) Ralph talked to representative of VLCT about survey that was suppose to go out to all members about PACE. Representative did not have any idea about the survey. Ralph will follow-up with Patrick. The goal is to figure out what are the obstacles to PACE and address them.</p> <p>2) PACE in Brattleboro. Selectboard now has to approve funding of the plan. Town attorney is against it. Selectboard will not approve it until town attorney is on board. We need to keep asking for action.</p> <p>3) Only 6 other VT towns have implemented PACE.</p> <p>4) Neighborhood Heat Squad just</p>	

	announced they have financing at a lower rate than PACE.	
2). VT Home Energy Challenge (VHEC)	<p>1) No word yet on who won. Will know by March 15. Award ceremony on Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> in Montpelier.</p> <p>2) Home Efficiency Video update. Chad and Tad getting good feedback from folks on proposal. Looking to create a project team. Chad will send NY home efficiency web videos.</p>	
3). Efficiency a) Town buildings (includes town skating rink committee)	<p>1) Warned meeting on March 11. Agenda will be list of recommendations to Police/Fire project coordinators on efficiency steps to make. Recommendation that full energy committee support efficiency subcomm recommendations. Make sure Police/Fire folks are getting good information on project numbers and technologies.</p> <p>2) Patrick Moreland is looking for an example of a scope of work for an energy audit.</p> <p>3) Article 14 on town warning is to set up a \$50k energy efficiency fund and use the agricultural dollars. Ask town meeting reps to support.</p>	a) Energy committee supports efficiency subcomm recommendations for efficiency efforts of Police/Fire project. All in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstain.
4). Renewables a) Solar electric project b) Electric car charging stations	<p>a) Solar electric project</p> <p>1) Solar-electric project &amp; Net metering project. Wynstanley proposed solar project. Got certificate of Public Good for 2Mw (AC) system. Will start in the spring. Will be on the northbound side just north of West River bridge on I-91. Panels only have 2% reflectivity ratio. Power will go into-grid. Did "pole-test" last week. This is a big system that you will be able to see from the interstate. Looking to build information kiosk at New Chapter entrance as well as West River Trail. Also, looking at a new, net-metered project for a 500kw system. Looking at one-taker (possibly New Chapter). Possible site on Wynstanley property near river (13 acres). Could do more than one 500kw projects if property is split up between owners and projects were done by/for different entities. Seems to be confusion on whether or not multiple projects can be on same sight.</p>	<p>4) Energy committee supports renewable subcomm recommendations for 10kw project. All in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstain.</p> <p>5) Support charging station project: All in favor. 0 opposed. 0 abstain.</p>

	<p>Two issues committee is facing: what is Brattleboro going to do about taxing these systems? What kind of legislation will help more 500kw projects on one site and/or larger installs?  Subcommittee meeting scheduled to discuss these issues.  Current law being discussed in VT legislature: raising cap of net metering project for municipalities.  2) Update on Townsend solar project (for town of Brattleboro). Chair of Townsend planning commission complained that they had not been informed of solar project yet. Project coordinator for Integrated Solar is going to do a presentation for Townsend. Paul made sure they are connecting.  3) Propose to town to doing a 10kw system for Police/Fire project. Numbers add up. Project coordinators should check out the option.  4) Renewable sub-committee meeting March 11. Agenda: Whether or not to approve 10kw system for the Police/Fire project. Move for energy committee to support whatever recommendations the renewable subcomm recommends for the 10kw project.  b) Electric Car Charging stations: Another grant process starting up. Grant would provide 75% of the Level 2 charging station. Jason is lining up 25% local match. Selectboard must approve. User will pay for electricity using charger. This will include 120v for bicycles. Old Stone Church is on now. Will be useable once snow banks are moved/melted.</p>	
5). Transportation	1) Sent out 8 surveys to businesses and will send to SESU and BMH. Roundtable meeting on April 9 <sup>th</sup> to report progress	
6). Project Atlantic	1) Meeting at high school last week on student projects. So far, 10 video clips exist that will be pulled together to sum up the entire Project Atlantic. This project will be publically available. Eventually, start to populate website Jed and Ralph created looking at what is being done and what can be done around	

	energy solutions. Then, start publicizing this site and information. Make connection with Strolling of the Heifers.	
7). Energy Data	1) Jed did a lot of work on it this month. Systems are set up and starting to collect data. Next steps: website exists and be able to show baseline data and start looking at trends. Then, look at how to use the data (what we want to show). Hope is for the town to see the benefit of this (not just data, but process/system). Short-term goal is to look at fuel/electricity usage.	
E). Next Meeting	Monday, April 7, 2014 at 5:00pm	Place on agenda for April: Sheetal Project proposal feedback