

Minutes: 03/06/17

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Michael Bosworth, Tom Finnell, George Harvey, Oscar Heller, Tad Montgomery, Kathleen White

Topic	Discussion	Action
Agenda Review		
Approval of 12/5/16 and 1/9/17 minutes	Corrections discussed. 12/5/16 minutes approved with corrections, 5-0. 1/9/17 minutes approved with corrections, 6-0.	Kathleen will send corrected minutes to Jan Anderson
Check-in, Introductions, Announcements.	<p>1. Tad: WRC Energy & Natural Resources Committees are meeting to discuss energy planning and the maps that have been created for renewable energy siting, at Bratt Retreat Education Ctr on Wednesday 3/7/17 at 6 PM.</p> <p>2. Separate meetings with 3 legislators focused on legislative energy issues were held in Feb, organized by Tad: Val Stuart, Mollie Burke and Tristan Toleno. Mollie has submitted 4 energy related bills; 60+ legislators participate in the Climate Caucus; Sen. Becca Balint co-sponsored S 51, which would codify Vermont obtaining 90% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050. Mollie advised interested people to draft a letter for the governor, president pro tem, and house majority leader re: our climate & energy concerns. Tad drafted a letter.</p> <p>3. EVT speaker's bureau: willing to come to towns to speak on any of 6 topics (Button Up Vt, Cold Climate Heat Pumps, Mobile Home Efficiency, Modern Wood Heating, Slash Your Energy Bills, and Zero Energy Homes). Do we want to invite EVT to do a presentation? Interest expressed in offering Mobile Home Efficiency as we have never offered this.</p>	<p>2. Put Tad's draft letter to Vt legislative leaders on April BEC agenda for endorsement decision.</p> <p>3. Michael will talk to Tri Park to see if there is any interest in a Mobile Home Efficiency presentation.</p>
Panel on Carbon Pricing	Michael discussed with Johanna Miller, who said the public has had concerns about the expected huge increase in gas pricing with a carbon tax and promoters were not ready with a response. That issue needs to be	Keep in touch with Johanna to assess good timing for a carbon tax panel.

	worked on, and a specific proposal developed, before the proponents are ready for a roll-out.	
Volunteer Energy Coordinator	Michael asked Jan Anderson if the volunteer energy coordinator applicants could be reviewed by the EC. Jan thought they would go directly to Selectboard; might be chosen at 3/21 meeting. Peter Elwell wants to study (this summer) the possibility of having a sustainability coordinator in the town budget. Tad moved: that BEC requests the selectboard include 1 member of EC in the process of selecting a Volunteer Energy Coordinator, and in the process of studying whether the Town should budget for a sustainability coordinator. The motion was seconded and passed with 5-0-1 vote. Oscar said he would be available to represent BEC if town agrees to include us in these processes.	Kathleen will email the wording of the motion to Michael, so that he can forward it to the selectboard on 3/7/17. Michael will reach out to Peter Elwell to let him know that BEC would like to be involved in the study about the possibility of a town sustainability coordinator.
Community Energy Dashboard	Michael will be at the polls 3/7/17 from 9-11 AM to provide voters the opportunity to fill out the Dashboard survey and receive an LED lightbulb. Kathleen will do 10:30-12:30. We might want to offer it at town meeting too.	
WRC Renewable Energy Grant Program	Tad and George have project grant proposals that they asked BEC to endorse. Selectboard endorsement is required. The committee reviewed both proposals. Both have merit, but concerns were expressed about endorsing proposals that come from EC members. A motion was proposed, seconded and passed 5-0-1, to make the following statement to the selectboard about both proposals: BEC does not officially endorse George Harvey's nanogrid proposal/Tad Montgomery's Downtown Brattleboro Building Energy Program proposal because George/Tad is a member of the BEC. We encourage the selectboard, however, to seriously consider the merits and community benefits of the proposal and to potentially endorse it to the WRC's RE program as per the program's requirements.	Michael will share the wording of the motions with Jan Anderson and tell Jan that both Tad and George would like to be on the 3/21 Selectboard agenda, because the grant application deadline is 3/31.

<p>Project/subcommittee reports</p>	<p>Renewable Energy: Selectboard officially agreed to contract with Encore Renewable Energy & Sky Solar for energy from the solar array on the capped landfill. A 65 MW solar array is to be installed in Hinsdale--largest array east of the Mississippi. Potential for collaboration on a regional microgrid that could involve this array.</p> <p>Zero Energy Now: ZEN 2 will be forthcoming, focused more heavily on renewables, pending development. The program just got funding from GMP Ceed program.</p> <p>Energy Data: Lester willing to analyse data again this year; we need to figure out how to get data to him, as Paul Cameron used to do this.</p> <p>Integrated Energy Systems: Jason Cooper is looking into battery storage to serve his & neighboring buildings, for peak load shaving and back up resiliency.</p>	<p>George suggested we put Hinsdale solar array on April agenda to discuss if we want to approach stakeholders about collaborating. George will send news article about this to EC members and he will reach out to some of the stakeholders to invite to an upcoming meeting to present about the project.</p>
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM. Next meeting: April 3, at 5 PM.</p>	