

## Brattleboro Energy Committee

April 1, 2019 Meeting

Members Present: Oscar H., Tom Finnell, Tom Franks, Ralph M., George H.(= 5/7)

Member-in-waiting: Carol Levin

Members of the Public:

### A. Announcements

- Michael Bosworth has low-energy bulbs to give out
- For anyone, interviews for 1 open spot on the Committee will take place tomorrow: Singh, Levin, Rizotti. SB will then vote on the appointment.
- The old Energy Coordinator \$10K position is still open, and on tomorrow's SB agenda. Several people have applied.

*MOTION: That the Energy Committee oppose the short-term hiring of an Energy Coordinator, in favor of ceasing efforts to fill this position and refocusing efforts on defining and filling the Sustainability Coordinator position. [PASSES UNANIMOUSLY]*

### New Place for Meetings

Try the Coop's Community Room (since the Municipal Center will no longer be staying open this late). Same time.

**B. Minutes from 2/14/2019:** MOTION TO ACCEPT: PASSES.

**C. Act 174:** Ralph provided an update on this law and the "enhanced energy plan". We should be aware. This is something the Sustainability Coordinator may choose to focus on. Not currently a Brattleboro priority. Would need an amendment to the Town Plan. Current renewable generation is 12,750 MWh/year according to Marion Major, WRC (as of 12/2016), and an additional 8,578 MWh/year will need to be added by 2050.

**D. Discuss Energy and Sustainability Funding at Town Meeting:** Town meeting reps present shared impressions of the meeting. A key question is whether it will involve an officer or budget items to be carried out by others?

**E. Municipal Energy Survey** (from VLCT, EAN, and VECAN): Consensus: send to the Town Manager & ask him to delegate.

**F. Report on Sustainability Coordinator Goal:** Already covered.

Oscar: Spoon wants to have a general discussion about the money, w/some other people too.

Tom Franks: We need to have a meeting with Peter first, and then reach out to some other constituencies, like Chamber of Commerce, social justice side, i.e., cover Triple Bottom Line.

Oscar: Yes! Let's schedule a meeting with Peter through Jan.

**G. Microgrid Working Group:** Next meeting in Room 303, Municipal Center, will be televised. Homework assignment for WG's members: Write down a vision of a microgrid's future in Brattleboro.

#### **H. Networking with Energy Committees in this Region:**

Carol created a database of energy coordinators. Came up with 133 towns. Distributed a copy. Is willing to reach out to the WRC to see if they can convene a meeting.

Ralph and George mentioned VECAN and its annual December conference.

Ralph mentioned Vital Communities and its annual Energy Committee Roundtable.

Next move: Carol will check with Chris Company, WRC, about convening a regional meeting.

#### **SOME FINAL THOUGHTS/ISSUES:**

- We need to be able to provide a complete accounting of BEC operations and for activities Rep.Town Meeting.
- Oscar: this is a very important year to do a lot of stuff
- Keep an eye out for grants

#### **I. Public Participation:**

Carol handed out a copy of Solar Power World

#### **J. Adjourn**

**NEXT MEETING: 5/6, Coop Community Room**