

Minutes: April 6, 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, Bob Reuter

Guest: Katherine Carlin (West Hill Energy and Computing)

Topic	Discussion	Action
A). Call to order, Agenda review, approval of minutes	-Add "Municipal Solar Tax" to Renewables subcommittee report -Approve March Minutes	-Made suggested changes to draft March minutes. Motion passes: 7 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstains
B). Check-in, Introductions, Announcements	-7pm tonight at Centre Congregational Church is a community forum around nuclear fuel storage. Speaker is Kevin Kamps from Beyond Nuclear -April 27, Carbon Pollution Tax forum with Johanna Miller from VNRC. 5:30pm at Marlboro Grad -Sat, May 2 nd , 1-4pm. Brattleboro Solar Season campaign kickoff at Brooks House lobby. Speakers, food, music, solar installers present	
C). Energy Audits RFQ Review Committee - Nominations	-Town is forming a committee to review proposals -Suggested two BEC members be on committee to pick firm and put together plan -Nominations: Bob Rueter, Lester Humphreys. -Tad would like to participate and receive correspondence -Questions from Katherine Carlin: -What are the Efficiency VT retrofits referenced in annual reports? Answer: Assistance from Efficiency VT on town energy projects -Safety issues on town buildings? Answer: Municipal building with fire code issues and asbestos issues.	-Lester and Bob approved to serve on committee representing BEC. Motion passes: 8 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstains
D). Subcommittee Reports:		
1. Energy Efficiency a. Town Energy Efficiency Plan	a. Town Energy Efficiency Plan -At recent selectboard meeting, funds from efficiency fund were approved to be used for town projects (ex: replace remaining decorative street lights to LEDs). Moving forward -Put out Request for Qualifications	

	<p>(RFQ). Due May 1st. -Town is putting together a review committee to review proposals: Patrick Moreland, energy coordinator, 2 BEC members, John O'Connor</p>	
<p>2. Renewables a. Solar electric projects b. Municipal Solar Tax c. Solar Summer Campaign</p>	<p>a. Solar electric projects -Chosen firms: Pristine Sun and Integrated Solar and RBI Solar -Still working out contract b. Municipal solar tax -Proposal of what the municipal solar tax would look like based on various sized solar projects -This is what the tax rate would look like if the town does nothing (based on state) -The town could opt out of the tax or the legislature could change. As of now, the town could have a good income stream (ex: proposed 5Mw project at municipal waste location) -First 50Kw projects exempt -Education tax starts at the first Kw after 51Kw -If the town wanted to opt out, there would have to be a vote at representative town meeting -Developer would pay the tax -This is the state model based on the Sandia model -This tax collection process has already begun -Are community solar systems (members own panels) involved in this tax assessment process? It varies from model to model. -Impact of future projects because of tax structure. Good thing: brings in revenue to town. Possible negative: could deter future developments -Some complaints from developers on tax impact, but not deterring from development -Shall the BEC make a recommendation on whether or not to accept this model? Tad suggest revisiting in early 2017 when federal tax credits begin to run out. -Paul will ask Russell Rice about community solar impact -Tax impact on converting to renewable</p>	<p>b. Municipal solar tax -Paul will follow-up with Russell Rice (Town assessor) about impact of tax model on community solar projects -Renewable subcommittee will look at possible impacts on future solar installations</p>

	<p>(solar) installations. Renewable subcommittee will look at.</p> <p>c. Solar Summer Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Solar workshop on Monday June 8th from 5:30-7:30pm at Marlboro Grad. Speaker: Kirk Shields from GMP -Steering committee working on publicity and campaign rollout -Paul will keep us updated as progresses -Committee considering inviting Steve Strong, pioneer in solar, in October (near end of campaign) -End of campaign is time of year when solar sales spike. May be a good time to invite Steve in mid September to take advantage of timing 	
<p>3. Integrated Energy Systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Took trip to Rutland -Visit to microgrid. Located on waste management site, tied to batteries. Used local tech students for engineering. Exploring storage capabilities (led and lithium batteries) -Visit to very first e-home. Owner of house conducted tour. Showed where changes were made and difference made. Total energy cost less per month than use to be. Now have 15 e-homes. Use of heat pumps and electric hot water heater (use of bricks). Provides on bill financing or lease. -“E-home” Make home more efficient and use of renewables to power home. GMP goes into home to assist homeowner. -Could e-home model be combined with PACE? Not sure. -GMP leasing out the heat pumps. West Hill Energy & Computing potentially doing analysis of this leasing program. Some mixed feedback -GMP works with NeighborWorks in Rutland. 	
<p>4. PACE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Patrick Morelend, John O’Conner and Bob Fischer went up to Burlington to meet with VEIC learn more about PACE -Issues town had were resolved -Assuming VEIC approves changes, town will support and selectboard can vote on moving forward 	
<p>5. Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Transportation roundtable meeting on 	

	<p>Wednesday April 22nd. Noon-1pm at Marlboro Grad Center. Speaker: Mark Shay, how to green your business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bike commuting workshops offered this spring. Let Paul know if you are interested. Workshops on various biking issues. All Free. -Way To Go Challenge/Smart Trip Challenge, May 4-15. Beyond commuting 	
6. Project Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mike Aurebach's class is working on video projects now -Lisa Holderness with VEEP did workshop session with them 	
E). Discussion of the Town's additional purchase of net-metering credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Review of solar proposal comparison (spreadsheet). Different options for the town to buy solar electric systems -Two projects combined: original 500kw project in Westminster and approximately 300kw system located at BUHS. This can be done because it is not producing more than 500kw at once (cannot exceed 500kw), but can produce more (capacity). So, we look at the estimated Kw/year -Two factors: shrinking output and changing of rates -Next step is to make a recommendation on proposal options -Proposal: Recommend negotiation for the buyout of the remainder of the SU's contract at the addendum terms or better. 	<p>Motion: Recommend negotiation for the buyout of the remainder of the SU's contract at the addendum terms or better. Motion passed: 7 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstains</p>
H). Feedback and next meeting, topic, speaker	<p>Monday, May 4, 5-7pm at the Hanna Cosman Room, Brattleboro Municipal Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Inviting Mike Hebert for May -Chad will not be available to take minutes. Can someone volunteer to take minutes? Kathleen will -Chad suggests a future topic on the issues surrounding home weatherization and the impact on income-limited households. Impacts this may have on cycle of poverty, poor health, state home heating fuel use. Possible speakers could be someone from VNRC, SeVCA, housing advocates. Other options: Jeff Wilcox (OEO), Daryl Pillsbury and Richard Davis (Windham 	

	County Heat Fund)	
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