

Minutes: 05/02/2016

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Michael Bosworth, Paul Cameron, Milt Eaton, Tom Finnell, Mary McLaughlin, Ralph Meima, Kathleen White.

Guests: Mike Auerbach, Chris Mays

Topic	Discussion	Action
Approval of Feb 1, March 7 and April 4 minutes	Feb 1 approved 5-0-1 with no discussion. March 7: under Renewables: delete the word "company". Approved 5-0-1. April 4: Tad had submitted changes, but Kathleen did not have them on hand. Discussed procedure for correcting minutes: suggested changes should be brought to next meeting. Minutes taker will then send approved copy to Jan and Paul. Paul will send corrected version to committee members. All agreed: 6-0.	Approval for April 4 minutes deferred until next meeting.
Announcements	1.Paul congratulated Kathleen for her Unsung Hero award from BAII and on her impending retirement from her job on May 13. 2.Safer Streets Forum Thursday, May 5, 5-7:30, River Garden 3.Police/Fire Committee mtg Wed, May 11 4:30, Muni Bld 4.Zero Energy Now workshop, Monday 5/16, 5:30-7:30 MGC 5.Heat Pump H2O heaters workshop, 5 PM, MGC, SEON	
Project/subcommittee Reports	1. Project Atlantic: Mike reported on this collaboration with BEC & BUHS Environmental Science class to get students involved in creating films about energy work going on in Vt, nationally, & globally. Milt took on 3 projects with students, including one on COP 21. Students looking at their personal decisions re: walking/biking vs driving. They have presented at VECAN, Slow Living Summit, other. Mike hoping to create a more Vermont wide project by getting other energy committees in the state involved. VECAN might be a good fit to take this on and go bigger. Vital Communities was suggested as a group to reach out to. Mike has talked to film festivals (Bratt Film Fest, Vt Freedom & Unity fest) about statewide competition for students using visual	1.Paul will bring idea of statewide student energy films competition to VECAN planning committee mtg next week and let Mike know what they think of the idea.

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	<p>media in education. Students feel it's very meaningful work. Important to them that adults see what they're doing. BEC helps make their work important. Trying to improve the product; create a film that other energy committees can use. Has 6-8 student made films that are worth watching. Mike would like a data base of energy experts talking on film as a resource for students. Ralph thanked Mike for jumping in and making something happen. Mike plans to keep doing what he's doing with students.</p> <p>2. Energy Efficiency: a. Town Energy Efficiency Plan/Audits: Selectboard will hear about audit results on Tuesday, May 3. Town Admin will ask board to make a motion for staff to come back to S'board mtg next month with recommendations for implementation of certain audit recommended projects. BEC can provide support to project & speak to the importance of the work and potential to save money. Paul, Michael and Bob attended mtg with town to look at use of "Enterprise funds". Steve Barrett agreed on a lot of the recommended changes, especially for water Treatment plant, pump stations & transportation Ctr. Town wants more info on conversion to wood heat. These changes could get approved within a few months (not town budget related). In the fall, town will bring changes to Select board that need town mtg approval. The options for the Municipal Building need to be decided on before recommendations can be carried out to this building. Options are: a.move all town offices to 1st floor, rent 2nd floor to others. b.Move town offices out of Mun Bldg, rent the whole building.</p> <p>3. Renewables: Town had been receiving solar net metering credits from Next Sun. Next Sun found town to be in default (did not like the terms of contract), cancelled contract. Town is now paying more for energy.</p> <p>4. Transportation: a.Rail letter sent to VTrans asking for more than 1 passenger trail daily thru Brattleboro. SOTH, &Chamber signed on. Paul & Michael talked with Mollie</p>	

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	<p>Burke, who said there are budget issues, but she will try to get this in next year's budget. Commuter line from Boston to Fitchburg look to extend to Greenfield. This could help effort to get more train thru Bratt. Renewal of Montrealer is a priority—will take another year or 2. Also Rutland to Burlington. Once these two are completed, they can look at Bratt. Vermonter ridership is up; now taking bicycles for \$10. If interest, we might organize a larger meeting with regional planning focus.</p> <p>b. West River Trail: this project started in BEC. Lots of progress. Looking to extend trail south to Brattleboro and to old RR bridge to NH. (Could also extend trail from Bratt parallel to Rt 5/Putney Rd and use for commuting). Working on feasibility study re: cost, so can apply for grants. Land on river side along active rr tracks south of Rt 119 is mostly owned by town. Bratt Conservation commission also interested and working on this too.</p> <p>5.ZEN: Should this be an official committee: Yes 5-0-1. Had good meeting last week with contractors. Integrated Solar acting as GC. If energy efficiency consideration, they bring in Farnum. Good model: making homes tighter before getting into renewables. If unable to get to Zero Energy, goal is to improve by at least 50%. George offered to join Kathleen, Paul and Michael on committee.</p> <p>6.IES: Helen Bruneau working on how to get homes or businesses to get power wall batteries. She will come to Bratt to present about this, when they get closer. GMP will help anyone who wants to pursue microgrids.</p> <p>7. Energy Data: Lester working on this.</p> <p>8.PACE: Interest rate has come down. No PACE projects in Bratt yet. Only 12 statewide. There are other, better ways to finance projects. Process is confusing.</p>	
Carbon Pollution tax	<p>Do we want to convene a special meeting to discuss this? If so, we want a balanced presentation. Should BEC take a position? First step is to get informed.</p>	Continue discussion at next BEC meeting
Feedback, next meeting date, topic, speaker	<p>Mollie Burke coming to June meeting. Carbon tax discussion: convene a panel discussion?</p>	

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	Take a position? Paul asked if others would take minutes: Mary offered.	