

Minutes: May 5th, 2014**Group:** Brattleboro Energy Committee**Attendees:** Lester Humphreys, Bob Rueter, Paul Cameron, Chad Simmons, Sheetal Kumar Chanda, Milton Eaton**Guest:** David Schoales

Topic	Discussion	Action
A). Call to order, Agenda review, Minutes approval	Agenda items added: Revisit municipal solar tax. Minutes approved.	Approve April minutes w/ Tad's edits. Approval: 5 yays, 1 abstain, 0 nays. Minutes approved
B). Check-in / Introductions/ Announcements	<p>Announcements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF) dollars coming to Windham County. Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th at BUHS starting at 5:30pm 2) Way to Go VT scheduled for the week of May 12-16 3) Energy Committee term expirations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 6 terms expiring (below) on June 30, 2014: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bob Rueter (3-year term) ii. Ralph Meima (3-year term) iii. Jed Leslie (2-year term) iv. Sheetal Chanda (2-year term) v. Tad Montgomery (1-year term) vi. Current open seat (2-year term) b. Apply now on town's website (link below) c. The Select board will appoint new members at its meetings on June 3rd and 17th. http://www.mapsonline.net/brattleborovt/forms/standalone.html.php?id=175605855 	
C). Leadership Discussion	<p>-This is a diverse group taking on a variety of projects. Stick with Chairs of each SubComm acting as conduits for effective communication and leadership.</p> <p>-Came up in relation to Lester taking on a lot of leadership responsibilities.</p> <p>-Ralph suggested looking at tightening up structure some more and/or allow SubComms to branch out.</p> <p>-Looking at making SubComms more specific.</p> <p>-Chad shared his interest in looking at assisting low-income households improving home energy performance. More going on at state level. Whose role is it to bring up these issues at the town level?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">-Ralph; look at workshop model to bring various groups together (SEVCA, Heath Squad, etc.).</p> <p>-Paul is a great resource for historical details on town energy efforts.</p>	
D). Subcommittee Reports:		
1). Energy Efficiency a. Town buildings b. Home Energy Challenge c. Energy data	<p>a) Town buildings:</p> <p>-Met with Patrick on energy audits and unfortunately, there is an issue with asbestos, which makes it difficult to do blower door tests. There are four chassis that have asbestos in them. This means it is not possible to do a blower door test without potentially having the particulate becoming airborne. Municipal building is now off the table for an energy audit.</p> <p>-Patrick is now looking at the cost to do audits on other buildings.</p> <p>-Asbestos remediation for municipal building could cost up to \$60k to do.</p>	<p>a) Town buildings:</p> <p>-Bob and Lester are re-writing the spec for the proposal. Trying to get the biggest</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Looking at other buildings to do the energy audit and could use \$500 of the \$10k we won for the energy challenge award. Possibly ice rink. Lester mentioned the three top buildings: freshwater treatment plant, ice rink, maintenance garage. All are cinderblock buildings. -Possibly look at town swimming pool for energy audit. Possibly explore solar hot water/heat pump heating. b) Home Energy Challenge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Grant has to be spent by end of 2014 -Paul will follow-up with Efficiency VT on what we are doing c) Skipping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bang for our buck. -Bob will talk again with John Haehnel to get his take on audits on cinderblock buildings. Experience, sample and interest level. -Lester and Paul meeting next week with Steve Barrett
2). Home energy video project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chad showed draft video -Final version will be sent to committee by end of month for dissemination throughout Brattleboro. This will include a plan for promotion. 	
3). PACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Town discussed PACE at April 15th select board meeting -Town's lawyer, Bob Fisher believes the town does not perform any function in the PACE process that would justify a tax sale. He is developing language that would allow the town to issue a special assessment following delinquency when we receive notification from VEIC that a potential borrower is not paying the loan back. Bob suggest proposing to VEIC as an amendment to the program guidelines. -Patrick Moreland shared VT League of Cities & Towns' (VLCT) survey results from the 23 towns that have passed PACE to get a clearer sense of what various towns understanding of PACE are. Six towns responded. One town, Dorsett, conducted legal review of documents. From the survey, there seems to be a lack of clarity on what the tax sale would be for. -At meeting, select board members were given report. We have not seen this report yet. Paul will follow-up on this report -Tad added it would have been preferable for Patrick to reach out to committee to get input. Lester's response was that this is now a legal issue and not an energy issue. It is now in the town's/select board's hands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Moving forward, Paul will forward any town meeting (select board, etc.) that may be related to Energy Committee-related issues.
4). Renewables a. Solar b. Solar Tax Memo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Solar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Paul sent update to Patrick on town solar project -Paul is working with the waste district on solar project. Working on an RFQ and moving forward and working on details. Waste district looking at various models that could be used. -Patrick has not had a chance to look at other small town energy projects. Town could accept multiple or none of the proposals b) Solar tax memo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Russell Rice, Town Assessor, contacted Patrick about all 10kw installations and figured out what revenue it could possibly bring in (approximately \$2800). -Energy Committee's memo suggested following state's model. -This is defined as "out building" as part of the property tax. -Tad: is it too late to make an amendment to the memo proposal? Specify that the money going into the efficiency fund be used in order to decrease town energy use. Memo already went out. Lester suggested we just re-iterate this 	

	as we move forward.	
5). Transportation a. Electric car charging stations	<p>a). Electric car charging stations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stone church location is up and running. Planning to move to a more useable location on the premises. -Town received a \$10k grant from a State downtown program to install a charging station in the parking garage -Ford dealership on Putney road installing a charging station -Paul and Jason looking into signs -Marlboro Graduate Center looking at installing stations -Table and demonstration for charging stations at Strolling of the Heifers -Suggestion to give update at upcoming select board meetings about charging stations 	
6). Project Atlantic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -High school student videos are done. Ralph is following up with the faculty organizer to figure out next step for project. -Also, interest is there for continuing into next school year -Ralph will send link to videos. -Ralph will be leaving committee in two months, but interested in keeping this project going through the town in some way. -David suggested reaching out to new manager of the Hooker Dunham Theatre to screen during off times 	
F) Clean Energy Development Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Entergy contributing \$2.6 into CEDF earmarked for Windham County -David raised question about Brattleboro representation within the process -Tad described CEDF process. Clearly excludes thermal heat efficiency projects. Tad asked the CEDF committee about this and confirmed it was excluded. -Tad suggested the energy committee and individual members recommend to the CEDF committee that it includes thermal heat efficiency projects. The statute that created the CEDF includes this exclusion. -Gaye Symington, chair of this committee, is sympathetic to including thermal heat efficiency. -Even though the legislative session is ending for the year, it would still be worthwhile to reach out to legislators. -Could town apply for these dollars? Yes, here is an example of other projects being proposed: SEON, biomass project; As well as possible projects by WSWMD; WRC. -CEDF interested in community-owned projects -Appears this meeting on May 14 will do a short presentation, but mostly to listen to community feedback. Tad suggests the CEDF look at this as a broad opportunity. \$2.6 could go very quickly. -Milton expressed the hope that CEDF committee not prejudge decisions and let the projects arise and be proposed naturally (i.e. don't pre-pick winners). -Tad's follow-up notes to this discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Link to the statute: http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullsection.cfm?Title=30&Chapter=089&Section=08015 -Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sec. (b)(1) & (3) do say "cost-effective energy efficiency resources" -Sec. (b)(4) discusses "Emerging energy-efficient technologies" -Sec. (c) seems to imply that the legislature is leaving efficiency up to "the State's power and efficiency utilities" Sec (h) describes the ARRA funds -Also, note that the CEDF web page is: http://publicservice.vermont.gov/topics/renewable_energy/cedf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tad will send Op-Ed and statute to committee members -If committee members can go to this meeting, please go.
F). Feedback		
G). Next Meeting	Monday, June 2. 5-6:30pm	Commitment to

		end meeting by 6pm to accommodate those attending representative town meeting
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