

Minutes: 05/07/2018 (Revised)

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Michael Bosworth (chair), Tom Finnell, Tom Franks, Roseann Grimes, George Harvey, Kathleen White (note taker)

Guest: Wayne Estey

Topic	Discussion	Action
A. Agenda Review		
B. Approval of April 2, 2018 minutes	One minor amendment suggested. Minutes approved with amendment, 5-0.	Kathleen will send amended April minutes to Jan Anderson.
C. Check-in/Introductions/Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Kathleen attended Vt Bike Walk Summit in WRJ. Great workshop sessions. Alice Charkes received Community Champion volunteer award for her advocacy work.2. Town is working with Amtrak to improve train station.3. Ralph Meima suggested holding a public forum with local legislators on Energy.	Topic of legislative public forum to go on June agenda.
D. Working Group Reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Vt Climate Pledge Coalition: Michael has been working on getting organizations to join. Difficult. Rich Earth Institute has agreed to join.2. FT Sustainability Officer for Town: discuss under agenda item F.3. DBBEP: no report. Group has not met.4. EV in Town fleet: Tom Finnell and Kathleen met. Decided to reach out to Police, Fire and Housing Authority to assess their interest in EV. Michael said the topic of considering EV in town fleet was raised at recent selectboard meeting by David Schoales and Brandi Starr. All agreed police dept should be our priority, as they replace vehicles frequently and idle their cruisers for long periods.5. Micro-grid: Michael, Tom and George had conference call with Jason Cooper and GMP about his idea for large battery storage behind his building (83 Main St), if the price from GMP is favorable. GMP has incentive to support Jason's plan, as they pay \$.60/kwh when getting power from outside our region, when extra power is	

	<p>needed.</p> <p>6. Climate Economy Model: RoseAnn & Michael met with Peter Elwell. Town is very interested as long as Town doesn't have to be the lead applicant and administrator. RoseAnn also met with Alex Wilson of Ecovation Hub to discuss their possible interest. Stephanie Bonin of DBA is also interested. A town or organization in town can apply to VCRD. Two towns will be chosen, each year for 3 years. If successful, VCRD would come and hold larger meeting to develop a plan. GMP and EVT are partners. Town could benefit from access to special programs from GMP and EVT. Application is due Nov/Dec.</p>	
<p>E. Report on Anaerobic Digester</p>	<p>Michael, Milt, Tad and Tom Finnell met with Bob Spencer and Morgan Casella on April 23. Carbon Harvest's assets (building & land) were bought by Sky Solar. All development would go on this land. The digester would take local food waste. They may get a "de-packager"(needed in some cases before waste can be handled by digester). The project would be costly, but fulfills a requirement with Act 48 that towns must deal with compost. Electricity would be produced. There would be a 20 year feed in tariff at a rate of \$.20/kwh, beneficial for making it work financially. The gas from the digester can be stored, to use to make electricity when needed. This would be beneficial to the town and other local businesses.</p>	
<p>F. Future Think about use of the Town appropriated \$10,000 for BSEC</p>	<p>These are non-specific funds. See list of ideas for use of funds on agenda. George suggested we offer the funds back to the town to help pay for a Sustainability Officer. Tom Franks agrees that we should put our effort in advocating for a SO on town staff. The Selectboard would need to hear from a good portion of the community that we really want this, so we need to find partners for a grassroots effort. RoseAnn said we need to include resilience in the job description, which means the community is ready for the effects of climate change; that</p>	<p>Michael will send invitation to suggested potential partners for grassroots effort by mid-May. They are: 350.org; Post Oil Solutions; SEON; Ecovation Hub; Rich Earth Institute. Michael will also send out Patrick Moreland's report on Sustainability Officers to BEC members and invited guests. RoseAnn will look at this report and distill from it for her 1-2 pager.</p>

	<p>we change our energy consumption patterns vs. sustain our current behaviors. Northampton has a SO. Alex Wilson is founder of the Resilient Design Institute. Peter Elwell may be a co-advocate. We can advocate for the position to be put in the FY2020 budget, and if it doesn't get in, then take it to Town Meeting.</p>	<p>Next steps: Motion: that the energy committee invite other organizations to the June BEC meeting to discuss support for a town position focused on sustainability and resilience. Passed 6-0. Motion: that the BEC chair be empowered to invite identified organizations to the next meeting and that other members may do so as well. Passed 6-0. -Roseann will write a 1-2 pager for our next meeting, defining the role of a Sustainability/Resilience Officer -Potentially create a petition drive to get S/RO position in FY2020 budget. Have adequate signatures by September when Selectboard starts budget talks. -Have this topic on BEC agenda at every meeting</p>
<p>G. Feedback; next meeting date & agenda</p>	<p>Good meeting. Next meeting June 4. Agenda: 1st item should be Sustainability/Resilience Officer position. Invite Ralph Meima to discuss his idea for a public meeting with local legislators.</p>	

