

Minutes: Monday, June 26, 2017

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Michael Bosworth, RoseAnn Grimes, Phoebe Gooding, Oscar Heller, George Harvey, Tad Montgomery, Kathleen White

Guests: Bob Spencer, WSWMD; John Fay, DEC

A. Agenda review

B. Approval of June 5, 2017 minutes

Reviewed proposed amendments to minutes

Minutes with amendments approved 6-0

C. Check-In/Introductions/announcements

1. Bob Spencer, John Fay and Committee introduced themselves.

2. Phoebe requested that future BEC meetings start and end on time, to be respectful of everyone's time. Proposed that we have a timekeeper.

3. Michael handed out a 1 pager about meeting with Peter Elwell, Tad and Tom about the possibility of a FT Sustainability officer vs continuing with volunteer Energy Coordinator.

D. Bob Spencer, John Fay: energy related matters at WSWMD.

Lots going on at WSWMD. Bob is looking for ways BEC and WSWMD could collaborate.

1. WSWMD was 1st landfill gas to energy system, connected to grid, in the world! Stubb Thomas started it, Dan Ingold was 1st operator. Antioch students did a video and report on the history of it. Could be shown on BCTV and other venues.

2. Solar array to be built on WSWMD landfill will be the largest group net metered system in Vt. Act 99 paved the way. Initial company from CA went belly-up. Sold to Sky Solar. Draft CPG received last week. Encore Renewable Energy out of Burlington will be contractor. All "takers" are set: Retreat, Landmark, Marlboro College, BUHS (will be saving \$90K/yr), Town of Brattleboro (saving \$100K/yr). Should be up and generating power by late fall. WSWMD will get \$100K/yr from leasing the landfill to the solar company.

3. Bob anticipates looking at battery storage from solar array, which could provide energy for a microgrid in the area, but this hasn't been discussed yet.

4. Food Waste: Brattleboro has the 1st municipally sponsored food waste system in the state, with PAYT and mandatory food waste diversion; it's unique worldwide, too. We have 2nd largest food waste composting in the state. 80 businesses in the area have food scrap systems; it's mandatory if they produce 1/3 ton food waste/week. BEC is invited to see compost system. Finished product is "BrattleGrow".

5. Anaerobic Digestion: WRC awarded WSWMD funds for financial and technical feasibility study for food waste digestion in the district. Pilot project to send C&S packaged food waste to a facility in MA that can de-package to see if cost-effective. If so, we would get a de-packager here.

6. Also looking at heat recovery from compost.

Bob had all this written up for SEVEDS several years ago--needs updating. He would like BEC input on all of these plans.

John Fay spoke about Act 148 (law about mandatory recycling and composting) and its phased in approach. Currently every transfer station offers to accept food waste, but by 2020, every town must mandate food scrap separation by its residents.

Action: 1. Bob will get the Antioch video and report to Michael B.

E. Discussion: BEC advocating Brattleboro join US Climate Alliance or similar organization. Discussed benefits of joining one or more of these organizations. Tad moved that we form a Climate Accord Ad-hoc sub-committee. 2nded and approved 6-0. Subcommittee will develop a draft about purpose and benefits of joining one or more of these organizations to be adopted at the next BEC meeting. It would then be presented at a selectboard meeting and/or be warned at next Town Meeting or on a ballot to involve the whole town. Tad, George, Oscar and RoseAnn offered to participate.

Action: Tad will coordinate a meeting of the Climate Accord Ad Hoc subcommittee.

F. Draft of FY2018 BEC Work Plan

Phoebe, Kathleen and Michael worked on BEC Mission Statement. Shared it with group. Tad suggests we look at mission statement at next meeting, since it wasn't clearly on the agenda for today. He also feels the Vision should be an integrated statement vs a list of everyone's personal vision. Tad also suggested BEC should have a broader 5 year plan based on the Town Plan Energy Chapter. Our work plan should also align with the WRC Energy Plan.

Action: Each BEC member look at new Mission Statement and come prepared to discuss the next time it is on the agenda. Workplan to be on next meeting agenda. We will get our 1 year work plan in place first, then work on the 5 year plan and alignment with other Energy plans over time.

G. BEC presentation to Selectboard

Work plan committee will also work on selectboard presentation. Oscar offered to join Work Plan group to work on presentation. BEC was asked to present at August 1 Selectboard meeting, but this feels too soon.

Action: Michael will ask David Schoales about the impact of delaying our presentation to Selectboard; and for his suggestions of what he'd like to see in the presentation.

H. Feedback and next meeting

Next meeting is Monday, July 10. The following meeting will be either July 31 or August 7.

