

Minutes: July 1, 2013

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Lester Humphreys, Bob Rueter, Jed Leslie, Tori Managan, Jason Cooper, Chad Simmons, Milton Eaton , Ralph Meima. Guests: Andy Cay, Chris Edling, David Schoales

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order, Agenda review	Adding to agenda: 1. Winstanley solar installation 2. State issued solar taxing guidelines	
Minutes approval	None	June minutes approved
Election of Officers	1. Chair, Vice, Chair, Secretary elections:	Approved all 3 officers. All in favor. Zero objections.
Announcements	1. Clean Cities VT guest speaker not able to be confirmed for July 1, 2013.	1. Jed will follow-up with him for a following month
Guest Speaker: Andy Cay-Integrated Solar	<p>Brief review of what a heat pump is. Discussed various new technologies and products.</p> <p>Typical heat pump hot water system installed is \$3900 (\$300 tax credit available). Energy savings may net at \$450 savings in first year (12% savings). Payback of about 5 years. Over time, could be as high as 23% ROI.</p> <p>In comparison to solar hot water, \$7,700 upfront cost, with an approximate 10% ROI.</p> <p>Side-by-side comparison favors the heat pump hot water system slightly.</p> <p>As of now, current installations of heat pump systems are primarily chosen for installation because of a lower price point, but has a higher electric load.</p> <p>Lending and appraisal markets need to catch up with homes powered by renewables.</p>	Review materials for further information: GE Heat Pump Water Heater Report- January, 2011

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<p>State Solar Installation Tax Guidelines</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State just released guidelines for taxing solar installations. Dummerston is assessing a municipal tax on any systems over 10 KwH. Clarity needed on if this is systems only larger than 10 KwH or all systems, with the tax rate kicking in after 10 KwH. 2. Does the energy committee propose a recommendation to the selectboard for a municipal tax rate on solar installations? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jed, Tori, Jason and Ralph voiced questions or opposition to levying a municipal tax on solar installations. b. Lester suggested that we may be more effective politically if we suggested a lower tax rate (at or below state tax rate), following the state's lead, rather than suggesting 0%. 	<p>Discuss further during August meeting</p>
<p>Winstanley Solar installation Proposal</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Town reserved the right to have public input on this project 2. Should the energy committee weigh in on this issue? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Several people voiced support for this project b. Some frustration that visibility is used as a reason to not support a solar project. c. Discussion on role of visibility or aesthetics in making a citing decision. Some felt that visibility should be a low consideration. <p>David S. - Need to ask Finance Committee or Finance Director to make recommendations on the taxation principles or policy. Need that information.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Selectboard will ask us to look further into this tax issue for the Winstanley project. 	<p>Energy committee voted unanimously to endorse the Winstanley project.</p>

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Subcommittee Reports	<p>1. PACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bob asked the question of whether the town has signed on with Efficiency Vermont to administer our PACE projects. David S. said this will be followed up. On September 1st, the state PACE facility will open for applications. <p>2. Efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ice Rink: The course of action is being re-examined, looking at heat-recovery technology, which is much more efficient. The rink will open in any case for the 2013-14 skating season. May be patched. A committee for this project will be convened by the Selectboard soon. 	
Communication - Annual Report- Measuring and charting energy use	<p>Lester shared town building energy use graphic for 2000 vs 2010, prepared with Paul C. Significant decrease over 10 years, especially due to Honey well project, projects that town managers have taken on, and efficiency investments in street lights and in the parking garage. The town vehicle fleet, however, has risen around 20% in energy consumption (in BTU). This part needs to be investigated.</p>	<p>Jed, Paul, and Ralph set August 1 as a proposal for a better savings/avoided costs tracking system.</p>

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	<p>On question of town energy savings, Ralph, Paul, and Jed met with John O'Conner to discuss how to track through the town's accounting system. John was open to providing information, but does not know at present how to do this. John provided numbers indicating that about 10% of the town's budget (almost \$1 million) goes to energy, which was larger than Jed's prior estimate. Significant. Lester noted that it has been hard to get energy audits done - there has been positive opinion but they fall off the budgets. Noted there is skepticism about investments in energy savings. The numbers just are not there, and we have not presented (communicated) the savings already to the public.</p> <p>Bob R. noted that people don't want to spend capital to reduce operating.</p> <p>Jed noticed constantly rising energy costs in current and projected budgets.</p> <p>David S.: With the transition to the new town manager, there may be an opportunity here to raise the priority.</p> <p>Idea (Jed, David S.): Have to create incentives to save</p>	

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	<p>beyond the reduced cost impact in the first year.</p> <p>Lester: we need to get the whole town on board with saving money - public education; we can't get involved in individual decisions.</p> <p>Idea of a public dashboard (in energy units and in dollars). Make it visible and in the public consciousness.</p>	
Next meeting	Monday, August 5 th , 2013. 5pm	