

Brattleboro Energy Committee

7/1/2019

MINUTES (prepared by Ralph Meima)

BEC has quorum: Oscar H., Tom F., Carol L., Ralph M.

Also present: Planning Commission, Community Members who advised position development process, BCTV, Peter Elwell.

Community members: Michael Bosworth, Abby Mnuchin

Planning Commission: Sue Fillion, Josh Steele, Kathy Urfer, Tom Mosakowski, Felicity Ratté

**DISCUSSION WITH PLANNING COMMISSION & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE re. SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR (SC)**

Discussion about multiple ways to look at sustainability.

Peter E: Environment will be a big part of SC's job. And not a beefed-up energy coordinator. Housing must be considered, too. Use systems out there for benchmarking. Variety of different measures of sustainability to consider.

Abby Mn: These would be documents the SC & public would see. Interconnectedness: justice, every other part of the work we do in this town.

Peter E: An example is public transportation. Another is the relationship between jobs, mobility, and readiness for jobs. Intersectionality between climate and many other issues.

Peter E: This would be an employee within the Planning Department. Peter E. would interact more with the SC than with people under the normal chain of command. There are not resources to create a department all by itself for this person. Will participate as a member of the management team.

Sue F: There will be room for SC to take their own initiatives.

Note: Brattleboro has not yet undertaken the Enhanced Energy Plan process under Act 274. This could be a task for the SC.

Peter E: There was no ability to direct the Selectboard (SB). The SB needs to make a policy decision around this. Community Members: see wide variety of issues, which is valuable.

[NOTE: The Community Committee is asked to send its documents to BEC members]

Oscar: this is a position that will be self-directed in many ways; want it to be a practical position but don't know exactly how to do this in advance. The person who is hired will be best-positioned to figure out what this position can actually achieve.

Kathy U: Be careful not to load this position with too much pressure and expectations. Need compassion for the reality of this person's challenges.

Sue: There are lots of actions/tasks in the Town Plan that need attention. Would provide a deep well of tasks & keep the SC busy for a long time.

NOTE: SB could decide to put the \$100K all into programs and not into a position.

Community members felt that a person would be more valuable than more programs.

Abby: would be excited by a Yes-person;

Kathy: (Ha) They need a cargo bike!

Felicity: Do we need a vote? A presence at the SB mtg next Tues? 6:15 pm.

Oscar would like both.

Felicity: SB should adopt a set of values that steers this process.

Felicity: Open session: Motion to support the hiring of a SC as defined by the Energy and Citizens' Committees. Passes unanimously.

At this point we are done with Agenda items C & D. Note: SB mtg on 9<sup>th</sup>. Joint meeting with Planning Commission breaks up.

Agenda Item B: Accepted minutes of May 13 meeting unanimously

Agenda Item A: Tom Franks is not re-upping. No word from Milt or George... Carol will nudge Milt.

Agenda Item E: Microgrid. We need to figure out the product of the WG (Oscar). Action plan? Targets? What to achieve? End goal? How will we know when we have achieved what we set out to achieve. Carve out some time in the next BEC meeting to figure this out? (Note: George is not a BEC member now; will he be again?)

Agenda Item F: Carol went to a meeting of WRC's Energy Committee on June 7 re. regional meeting. Note: Marion M. is taking maternity leave in Aug/Sept. Ian Hitchcock (VNRC/VECAN) has been working on this. Thinking of this as a 5-8 pm gathering. Looking in West River Valley where there historically have not been energy coordinators. Intro + Keynote + Discussion of resources available now incl. EAN Dashboard + Breakout session + Report-back by facilitators of each group => Next steps. Looking at October. Note: Dec. 7 is VECAN annual conference at Lake Morey.