

**Minutes:** August 3, 2015

**Group:** Brattleboro Energy Committee

**Town Energy Coordinator:** Paul Cameron

**Attendees:** Michael Bosworth, Kathleen White, Tad Montgomery, Thomas Finnell, Bob Reuter, Ralph Meima, George Harvey

**Guests:** Peter Elwell, Cody Berwick

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
A-C). Call to order, Agenda review, approval of minutes	-Discussion of June 1 minutes.	Approval of minutes: 6 yeas, 0 nays
D). Check-in, Introductions, Announcements	Introductions: Two new BEC members – Ralph Meima and George Harvey – introduced themselves. Cody Berwick is a solar advisor with Solaflect Energy, a manufacturer of solar trackers based in Norwich, VT.	
E. Nomination and Election of Officers	The following nominations were made: Chair, Michael Bosworth; Vice-Chair, Ralph Meima; Secretary, Kathleen White. Kathleen agreed to accept her nomination if the secretarial duties are shared. Paul and Tad agreed to rotate the duties with Kathleen. Tad will take minutes of the Sept. 14. meeting.	The committee approved the nominations unanimously.
F). Discussion of microgrid possibilities	The Integrated Energy Subcommittee visited Rutland to see Green Mountain Power’s microgrid project at their closed landfill site. It has solar panels with batteries supplying the high school with power. Kirk Shields of GMP said that GMP may be open to working with Brattleboro to get a microgrid here. There are several solar arrays in the works that could be a power source. If the main grid went down, a microgrid could provide up to 10 MW of emergency power to a designated area of town. There may be money available from the Windham Regional Commission for a feasibility study – would cost around \$200,000. GMP has applied for a \$3 million grant from the Dept. of Energy. Project would be tied in with emergency services/facilities. Peter – conceptual stage is interesting, project would improve the town’s resilience, Town can support if GMP	No action taken.

	takes the lead. Happy to learn more about what would be required from the Town.	
G). Subcommittee Reports:		
1. Energy Efficiency a. Town Energy Efficiency Plan/Audits	<p>The Town chose Margaret Dillon of SEEDS (Sustainable Energy Education Demonstration Services) of Jaffrey, NH to perform audits of Town facilities. She is aiming to have a completed report by December 31 with recommendations that the BEC can take to Town Meeting. The subcommittee met with Margaret and representatives from the Windham Wood Heat Initiative, which provides financial and technical support for converting Town buildings to wood heat. Possible candidates for conversion include Brooks Library, the Municipal Center, Water Treatment Plant, and Retreat Wells Pump Station.</p> <p>Paul is gathering FY 2015 energy data.</p>	
2. Renewables a. Solar Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- had successful ice cream social on July 25<sup>th</sup></li> <li>- sponsoring Steve Strong talk on Sept. 11</li> <li>- continuing with tabling at Gallery Walk and Co-op</li> <li>- making targeted calls to workshop participants, businesses and nonprofits</li> </ul>	
b. Solar Projects	- contract signed recently for 4 MW project at Old Ferry Rd. landfill site, with Pristine Sun, Integrated Solar, and Renaud Bros. Potential source of additional net-metering credits for the Town. Approximately one-third of the Town's electric consumption is currently offset with solar.	
3. Transportation a. Smart Commute	- Paul met with Brattleboro Food Co-op recently, scheduling meetings with Brattleboro Retreat, Landmark College, Marlboro College Graduate School to discuss follow-up survey results.	
b. Electric Car Charging Stations	-GMP wants to place 5 "Freedom Stations" in Vermont towns - fast charger plus a level-two charger. GMP would pay all costs and the stations would be municipally owned.	

	<p>Customers would use a credit card. Patrick and Paul met with Jenn Cortez from GMP on June 12 to look at two possible sites – the High/Grove lot (preferred) and the Harris Place lot behind the Fairpoint building on Main St.</p>	
4. Project Atlantic	<p>Kathleen reported that Mike Auerbach from BUHS is excited about the project – she will invite him to attend the next BEC meeting.</p>	
5. FY 2016 Work Plan	<p>Discussion postponed until next BEC meeting. Paul urged everyone to review the 2014 Annual Report on the BEC page on the Town website.</p>	
I.Next meeting	<p>The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 14 at 5:00 pm in the Hanna Cosman Room.</p>	