

Minutes: August 4, 2014

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Town Energy Coordinator: Paul Cameron

Attendees: Bob Rueter, Chad Simmons, Tad Montgomery, Michael Bosworth, Kathleen White, Tom Finnell

Guest: Morris Pearce, Laurie Cartwright, Jim Simpson

Topic	Discussion	Action
A). Call to order, Agenda review, Minutes approval (May 5, June 9, July 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Add solarize proposal to end of agenda. -Minutes approval deferred until September's meeting -Chad will send out draft meeting minutes (with suggested edits) for May, June, July -Move September meeting to Sept 8th, 5pm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Motion to move September meeting from September 1st to September 8th, 5pm. 6 yays, 0 abstains, 0 nays. Motion passed.
B). Check-in, Introductions, Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Community Solar Options informational meeting Monday, September 22, 2014 @ 5-7pm @ Marlboro Graduate Center (This is a town energy committee roundtable discussion). This would look at all community solar options including Solarize. Put a report-out from Community Solar roundtable informational session on the October agenda. -Electric Vehicles Fair Saturday, Oct 25th at Marlboro Graduate Center -VCAN Conference, December 5th. -Saturday, November 1st Annual Button Up Day to support buttoning up area homes -Bus organizing for Climate Action rally in NYC. Talk to Tim Stevenson with Post Oil Solutions or Chad Simmons 	
C). Wood pellet plant proposal-Morris Pearce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Proposal to find heating solutions in Brattleboro area. -Handed out "Windham Wood Heat Project" draft proposal presentation. -Working with Cersomo to explore pellet storage facility -First priority is to lower cost of price/ton of wood pellets. -Ideal is to have low-cost, local wood pellets for heating. This would mean building a pellet plant locally. -At this point, there is not a lot of pellet infrastructure and pellets used, but it is 	

	<p>growing in the region. There is a market for pellets (CT, MA, etc). -If all goes well, it could be up and running. -Second phase is to increase wood pellet use. -One option is to build a pellet heating plant that provides heat to larger buildings (ex: build one plant to heat town municipal building, state building and the library). -Coordinators of this proposal have already identified a few potential customers and they are interested in the proposal. -Question for committee: What role will the committee play in advancing a pellet plant? -This presentation is to help make the committee more aware of wood pellet. -A feasibility study was done a few years ago and it was found that it wasn't feasible to build a biomass/district heating infrastructure. Circumstance may have changed since then and worth the committee and community to explore. -Comment from Tom: Seems to make sense to move forward on wood pellet plant at Cersomo site. We need to explore the market locally. -Where would the pellets come from? At present, by-products of lumber industry. -Comment from Bob: Support from committee is possible once a specific proposal for a project is put together (ex: Winstanley project)</p>	
D). Election of Secretary	-Chad offered to stay on as Secretary	-Motion to elect Chad Simmons as Secretary. 6 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstains. Motion passed.
E). Subcommittee Reports:		
1). Energy Efficiency a. Town buildings, Home Energy Challenge grant	a. Paul has been meeting with Patrick Moreland and Russ Moore to develop draft proposal for the \$10k HEC grant. Has not received approval from Patrick yet. The proposal needs town (Patrick's) approval then it must be	

	<p>approved by Efficiency VT.</p> <p>-The proposal includes: Installed cost of LED lights in the Preston lot: 33 decorative streetlights at \$208.33/light (\$6,875.00); Insulate Publics Works Garage boiler room pipes (\$2,322.25); Install motion sensor for Municipal Center basement light (\$500); Install programmable thermostats at Water Treatment plant (\$212.75); Install photo eye at municipal center rear entrance (\$90); Total: \$10,000.</p>	
2). Energy Data	-Paul gathered FY 2014 data. Electric bills are incomplete because of CVPS and GMP merger. We only have 9 months of data. GMP is working on this.	
3). Home Energy Video Project	-No updates	
4). Renewables a. Solar Tax b. Solar electric projects c. Electric car charging stations	<p>a. Talking to Patrick about Solar tax procedure and exemption process</p> <p>b. Patrick will be sending out second solar electric project RFP.</p> <p>-Initial project has received its CPG</p> <p>c. No updates</p>	
5). Transportation	-Transportation Roundtable. Wednesday, Sept 3, 1-2pm. Speaker: Jason Van Dreichse with Locomotion	
G). Solarize Project Proposal	<p>-The Putney energy committee (ad hoc committee) approved their Solarize project, lead by Daniel Hoviss</p> <p>-There is a spectrum of options: have subcommittee explore Solarize all the way to adapting the proposal as presented by RGS.</p> <p>-Possible option: do press release to encourage community members to join committee to explore a Solarize project in Brattleboro. It would help if the Energy Committee endorsed it.</p> <p>-Tad and RGS would put a lot of work into the project.</p> <p>-Question raised about if we endorse this Solarize project, does this set a precedent moving forward? Paul has concerns about promoting one company. Tad offered that in most cases, the lowest price is best option.</p>	-Motion to create an ad-hoc subcommittee to explore Solarize in Brattleboro. 3 yays, 0 nays and 3 abstains. Motion approved? (Paul will check with town to clarify if 3 abstains means a vote passes)

	<p>To promote Solarize does not mean the committee has to promote/advance one company.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tad is suggesting we start a Solarize subcommittee to begin exploring options prior to September community solar roundtable. - Subcommittee could be an “exploratory” committee to begin exploring what Brattleboro Solarize would look like. 	
<p>H). Feedback and Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Next meeting: September 8th, 5pm -Feedback: From Chad, get agenda items to Paul and Lester at least a week ahead of time. -Next agenda: Discuss wood pellet proposal; Send questions/ideas to Tad and Tom about the ad-hoc solarize subcommittee. 	