

Minutes: Sept 9th, 2013

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Kathleen White, Lester Humphreys, Bob Rueter, Jason Cooper, Paul Cameron, Milton Eaton, Chad Simmons

Guest: Tad Montgomery

Topic	Discussion	Action
A). Call to order, Agenda review, Minutes approval	Initially deferred minutes approval because quorum not present. Chad came late, discussion and approval, with two changes: 1). Was the Clean Heat proposal approved? Yes, committee approved to have Ralph and Michael would be the point people. 2). E.V. EPA reports will be the basis for BEC's annual selectboard report. Does the committee approve this plan? Yes.	One abstention, minutes passed unanimously. Approved Aug 5 th minutes.
B). Announcements	1). Sat Sept 21: Weatherization skill shop for DIY. Insulating, air sealing, basements, attics, etc. Need 8 people to hold it. Please spread the word. 2). Sat Dec 7 th : Annual NECAN Conference. Paul is on organizing committee. Hoping to get 400 people there. Lake Marcy Inn. Focus on energy committees. Workshops on energy, sources, organizing, transportation, keynote speaker. 3). Jason, Paul and Tad went to a great workshop on community solar. Very good. Put on by WRC and DOE.	
C). Subcommittee Reports:		
1). PACE	1). Public info session on Sept 4 th . Bob Rueter did short presentation. Good turnout with a mix of homeowners and contractors. 2). Will be on Sept 17 selectboard agenda to approve 3 documents so that people can sign up. 3). 4-month cycles. 1 st cycle sign up deadline ends Sept 30. 4). Interest rate is 7.25%, which is higher than hoped for. Term is 5-20 years. Next cycle will be Feb 2014 5). PACE has \$1 million from National Bank in Middlebury. Were hoping to get \$20 million from financial institutions. E.V. is doing all of the	

	<p>administrative pieces (paper work, and collecting funds).</p> <p>6). To apply: Do a pre-screening form. Contractor does scope of work, then call opportunities Credit Union to apply. Non-refundable application fee of \$350.</p> <p>7). Only a 3-4 towns have done all the paperwork to be able to offer it.</p>	
2). VT Home Energy Challenge (VHEC)	<p>1). Outreach days planned for Sept 14 and Oct 5</p> <p>2). Had ½ page ad in Reformer recently. Not much response from that.</p> <p>3). One VTHEC party planned with someone's book club.</p> <p>4). Neighbor Works Heat Squad has now hired a part time outreach worker based with Windham Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT).</p>	
3). Efficiency	<p>1). Streetlights: replacing Main St. now. Savings will be part of the selectboard report</p> <p>2). Town buildings: Steve Horton was approached and asked if he could do an audit as part of their scope of work and he said that it is not part of the Police/Fire project.</p> <p>-Patrick Moreland asked when is the best time to do audits (Barb Sontag had said she would find the money). Should be done asap. Audit will need to be a separate budget item according to Steve Horton, who is only concerned with the add-on or renovated part of building budget.</p> <p>-If Patrick is not willing to use discretionary money, BEC will need to make a request to the selectboard. Cost should only be \$1000 for municipal building. BEC would like to do all the buildings.</p> <p>-Need to set up a meeting with Steve Barrett about the water treatment plant and Pleasant Valley. It is using a lot of oil (about 17,000 gallons last year) to heat the 6000 sq. ft. building just so someone can work in it occasionally.</p>	
4). Renewables	<p>1). Soar electric project: WSWMD, largest project that could be done is</p>	<p>1). Lester, Jason, and Paul meeting with Bob Spencer</p>

	<p>500kw per VT legislation. Would be a good idea to talk with legislators about updating this.</p> <p>2). Updated on the Integrated Solar Project: 500kw system, net metered into town building electric bills. Supposedly they have found space, but it's not finalized yet. So, we do not know where it is at. Savings to town is expected to be 15-20%.</p> <p>3). Electric car charging stations: They are behind stone church and still are not usable. Paul spoke to Patrick Moreland. Patrick is in favor of a system at the parking garage and thought a solar panel there to provide the power, but would need money for that. The unit could have a control pad that monitors use. Good for business and good for marketing the town. Would cost \$2500 plus installation (minimal). Selectboard would have to approve it. Ask to put in next year's budget? Jason asked Bruce Bauer from GMP if Brattleboro could get another free unity, but has not heard back yet.</p>	<p>and two other WSWMD board members Tuesday.</p> <p>2). Paul will talk with Integrated Solar to see where the project is at and to ask how the financing of the project is coming along (idea: Green Lantern Financing).</p> <p>3). Jason and Paul will put together a proposal the BEC can review and endorse at October's meeting.</p>
5). Transportation	<p>1). Surveys going out this week to 7-10 businesses.</p> <p>2). Oct 14-18 Fall Way To Go Challenge</p>	
6). Project Atlantic	Deferred to next month	
7). Energy Data	Paul will talk to John O'Conner whether BEC members can com in and extract energy data from town's financial records. Will discuss with him how to set up the software. How much is it saving us in today's energy costs.	
D). Sustainable Business Awards	Only 2 people voted. Brattleboro Food Co-op has 36kw system	Next year have better process to quantify what each business is doing. Paul will resend with a deadline.
E.) Town Energy Report	Plan is to present at Oct 1 st selectboard meeting (delayed from 9/17). Lester would like a meeting with Patrick prior in order to go over report. Should be done by the 9/20, perhaps we should delay our presentation until	<p>1). Paul will set up a meeting with Patrick to go over the report.</p> <p>2). All BEC members invited to attend selectboard meeting, but not required.</p>

	<p>Oct 15th. Report also a tool for seeking input from community in addition to reporting our work to town. What should be in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Energy audit -Proposal for charging system -Subcommittee reports 	<p>3). Paul will send draft report out to BEC (and including Cynthia's EPA report) so BEC members can weigh in.</p> <p>4). All agreed good to wait until Oct 15th meeting to give report.</p>
F). VY Decommissioning Question	<p>BEC was given instructions not to discuss VY as part of its work. Question: Should BEC seek input from selectboard as to if it is appropriate to discuss and weigh in on VY decommissioning now that a date for closure has been announced? Chad provided some reasons as to the impacts of decommissioning on state/local taxes that may impact renewable/efficiency efforts at town level. Also, energy committees can have a role in this process. Paul suggested that BEC is most effective if it remains neutral on issues such as this. Also, WRC is working on this issue. Others agreed. Chad can be resource for information/involvement outside of BEC.</p>	<p>BEC will not weigh in or discuss this issue.</p>
G). Next Meeting	Monday, October 7 th	