

Brattleboro Energy Committee

Monday, October 1, 2018

5:00 PM

Hanna Cosman Room, Brattleboro Municipal Center

Minutes

Attending: George Harvey, Oscar Heller, Tad Montgomery, Tom Finnell, Tom Franks

Guest: Ralph Meima

A. Introductions and announcements

- Ralph announced that he has applied for a position on the Energy Committee, subject to Selectboard approval
- Oscar reported that GMP can provide town-wide energy use data
- T Franks reported on the effort to build support for creating a municipal sustainability staff position

B. Approve June 4 & September 10 minutes

- **VOTE:** June 4 minutes approved 5-0-0
- **VOTE:** September 10 minutes approved 5-0-0

C. Elect vice-chair and secretary

- Election of a vice-chair tabled to the next meeting
- Election of a secretary tabled to the next meeting. By consensus the members present agreed to rotate the duties of recording the minutes. T Franks preparing minutes for this meeting.

D. Discuss changing meeting time

- The current meeting time is inconvenient for some members, and with a reduced membership, it is challenging to meet the quorum requirements
- The members discussed possibilities of alternative days and times for the monthly meeting
- Two alternatives for addressing the challenge of meeting the quorum requirements were discussed:
 - Decreasing the committee membership – Oscar reported that by-laws can be amended by a vote $2/3^{\text{rds}}$ and that changing the number of committee members and quorum requirements would require Selectboard approval
 - Recruiting more members – Members discuss contacting people who have expressed prior interest and recruiting to the position.

- **ACTION ITEMS**

- Members will seek to recruit applicants for the vacant positions keeping in mind that the next Selectboard confirmation opportunity 10/16 and there may be application deadlines
- Oscar will check with town staff to see if the meeting time can be changed to 5:30pm and if an electronic version of the by-laws can be distributed to members

E. Discuss ~~November~~ December energy forum

- Ralph and Oscar discussed the objectives and approach prior to the meeting
 - Tentative date and time of December 3 at 6:00pm proposed
 - Location to be determined
- Objectives – to inform legislators on the community’s priorities and to inform the community on the legislative perspectives
- Format - A structured conversation between state legislators representing Brattleboro (2 senators, 3 representatives) and the community touching on
 - Bills on clean energy and related matters introduced/passed in the last two years
 - Bills likely to be introduced
 - The community’s energy legislation priorities
- **VOTE:** The members voted 5-0-0 to undertake the forum under discussion as an Energy Committee project and to invite the Brattleboro legislative delegation to attend
- **ACTION ITEMS**
 - George, Oscar, Ralph, and T Franks agreed to serve on a working group to organize the forum
 - George will seek a location with BCTV hookups and if appropriate solicit volunteers to televise the forum
 - Ralph will prepare a summary of bills from the last two sessions
 - Oscar will investigate sources for snacks for the forum, e.g whether or not an Energy Committee event can have any form of “sponsorship.”

F. Public participation - NONE

G. Adjourn: 6:05pm