

Minutes: November 7, 2016

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Tad Montgomery (minutes), Mike Bosworth, Ralph Meima, George Harvey, Mary McLoughlin, Milt Eaton, Joel Martell,

Guests: Daniel Quipp, Lester Humphreys

Topic	Discussion	Action
A-B: agenda review, Approval of 10/03/16 minutes		Oct. minutes approved 7-0
C). Check-in, Introductions, Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VECAN conference is Dec. 3, MB will send info to any interested.• Rail forum at BMAC this Wed., 6 PM, 11/9/16• Selectboard meeting 11/15, will be discussing the FY17 budget which will include some aspects of the town energy audit recommendations• 11/18 the PSB will be holding a hearing in Montpelier on the net metering Rule 5.100. Ralph is going.• BEC will be presenting our annual report to the selectboard on 12/6/16.	

<p>D. Energy Coordinator position</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an official ‘energy coordinator’ position in Brattleboro. • Milt recommends it be a paid position • Ralph recommends a ‘job description’ or list of tasks and responsibilities • Could the EC be combined with other town work into a full-time position? 	<p>Proposal: BEC recommends that the SB consider hiring a FT EC based on the past and potential future savings generated by this effort. (average annual savings: \$110,000). If that is not possible we recommend a PT paid coordinator. If that is not possible, a qualified volunteer if one can be found, and we recommend that \$10,000 from the town budget go towards this effort.</p> <p>VOTE: approved 7-0.</p>
<p>E. FY16 Town Energy data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streetlights finished and savings will continue • Other electric costs are level, for the most part • Heating costs climbed in the last two years, esp. in certain buildings, esp. the facilities: fresh water TP & WWTP • Heating oil this winter: \$1.57/gal. 	
<p>F. Carbon tax panel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible participating organizations: VPIRG, VNRC, Ethan Allen Inst., VT Fuel Dealers’ Assoc., Energy Independent VT, 350-VT, Audubon Soc., Am. Lung Assoc., WWF, CERES, other local energy committees & 	<p>Continue discussion in Dec.</p>

	<p>WRC, Ecovation Hub,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael asked if our preference would be a debate or a forum. • Milt recommends a book: <i>Luke Warming</i> that gives an alternative opinion on the validity of global climate change pub. by the Cato Institute. • Continue discussion in Dec. BEC meeting 	
<p>G. Windham County Renewable Energy Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was discussion, mostly revolving around microgrids 	
<p>H. Project/subcommittee reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Efficiency</u>: <i>Audits</i>: Issue of whether the town admin. will stay in the Munic. Center building or not. DPW is looking to do a major facility upgrade in a couple years. Town admin. seems to want to phase in the upgrades. <i>West Bratt Fire Station</i>: discussion of the current construction and discussion happening on iBrattleboro regarding insulation levels and possible future moisture problems • <u>Renewables</u>: The WSWMD solar PV project is back on track and the project has an opt-in for Brattleboro, 13.9 cents/kWh and guaranteed 	<p>Proposal: BEC recommends that the town sign up for as much net metering credits with the WSWMD solar project as possible. VOTE: approved 5-0</p>

	<p>19 cents for the next 10 years. It is unlikely for such a good deal to be offered the town again any time soon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Zero Energy Now</u>: 7 completed projects statewide, 20+ in construction phase. • <u>IES</u>: Powerwall battery WS well attended – 25 participants. GMP has announced a new battery that is 14 kWh, double the previous capacity. 	
<p>I. Feedback and next meeting date/topic/speaker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lester: suggestion that BEC focus on things during BEC meetings that will save the town money and energy. Deal with the nuts and bolts and philosophical discussions in sub-committees. • Next Meeting: Act 174 – town and regional energy planning. 	