

**Minutes: December 1, 2014**

**Group:** Brattleboro Energy Committee

**Town Energy Coordinator:** Paul Cameron

**Attendees:** Lester Humphreys, Bob Rueter, Chad Simmons, Anne Brinton, Kathleen White, Michael Bosworth, Tad Montgomery, Jason Cooper

**Guest:** Keith Dewey, Gary Swindler, Ralph Meima

Topic	Discussion	Action
A). Call to order, Agenda review, Minutes approval (Nov 3)		Table Oct and Nov meeting minutes approval until January. Committee members please send suggested edits to Chad
B). Check-in, Introductions, Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-VECAN conference on Sat Dec 6 at Lake Morey</li><li>-Dec 15 Efficiency VT inviting energy committee members for a ½ day action plan workshop 8:30am-12:30pm in Montpelier. Let Paul know if you are willing/able to make it</li><li>-Monday, January 12 Heat pump workshop regarding air source heat pumps. 5-8pm at Marlboro Graduate Center. Sponsored by Brattleboro Climate Protection and Sustainable Energy Outreach Network</li><li>-Brattleboro Climate Protection organized a solarize Brattleboro steering committing meeting. First meeting is Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 5pm at the planning department.</li></ul>	
C). Efficiency opportunities in the Wastewater Treatment Plant – Keith Dewey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Keith and Paul spoke about efficiency opportunities with the wastewater treatment plant. Keith was on the planning team for the wastewater treatment project. Keith has done previous work with green architecture. Some suggestions made by Keith to the planning team were incorporated into the final project design, some were not.</li><li>-There are 9 buildings, three of which are new, six are existing.</li><li>-Some of the adjustments to the budget of the project had an impact on the overall efficiency performance of the project</li><li>-Without looking at the numbers, some of the increase in electricity usage may be due to an increase in water being treated.</li><li>-There was also increased ventilation and other code-specific adjustments that may have impact on electricity usage.</li><li>-There are different needs/strains on the treatment system that did not exist before (flood plain needs, cheese factory)</li><li>-Most of the old buildings are brick or concrete fills. Flat room systems</li><li>-Deep energy retrofits were cut from the</li></ul>	

	<p>budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Payback for some of those deep energy would have been about a decade, but the assumption was those buildings would be around for a lot longer than that.</li> <li>-Some of the efficiency work was cut due to budget concerns. This could be related to increased/flat electricity use</li> <li>-Solar hot water panels are on roof</li> <li>-Methane capture being used for the anaerobic digester</li> <li>-Is it possible to get a list of the things that could be done and were not, with a breakdown in the payback and prioritized?</li> <li>-Keith suggested talking to one of the project engineers</li> <li>-What can Efficiency VT do?</li> <li>-Gary: Micro turbine having some technical challenges. Efficiency VT is still metering the plant</li> <li>-Third party engineers review meter readings</li> <li>-Efficiency VT has a wastewater treatment support program that could help, but hesitant to contact Brattleboro so close to the retrofit work</li> <li>-Increased/flat electricity use could also be because the plant was built for future capacity. Also, may not be capturing much methane. Ventilation is also increasing electricity usage</li> <li>-Gary recommending “retro-commissioning” that could be a cost-share with Brattleboro and Efficiency VT</li> <li>-The methane captured electricity being net-metered. Methane capture is reducing the electricity bills</li> <li>-Plant is dumping less undesirable materials into the CT River</li> <li>-If we moved forward with a “retro-commissioning” proposal, Efficiency VT would provide options for firms to do project. There would be a cost share between Brattleboro and Efficiency VT</li> <li>-BEC will talk about options the committee could take during the January meeting</li> <li>-We’re all interested in finding the most efficient, cost-effective solutions moving forward</li> <li>-Keith will put together brief list of possible efficiency improvements</li> </ul>	
<p>D). BEC Annual Report – Lester and Paul</p>	<p>Lester and Paul ran through next draft of annual report presentation that will be given to selectboard on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p>	<p>-Approve presentation, with some latitude to adjust as needed before Tuesday, to</p>

		selectboard: 8 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstains -Paul will put final presentation up on BEC page of the town's website
E). Project Reports:		
1). Energy Efficiency a. Town buildings, Home Energy Challenge grant b. Town Energy Efficiency Plan	b. Efficiency subcommittee look at if the town is only using LED's and if not, how the town can get all LED's for future use.	b. Paul will check on Christmas lights
2). Renewables a. Solar Tax b. Solar electric projects c. Electric car charging stations	a. Town Lister has not been able to value the Winstanley project because Integrated Solar has not provided the town with all the information the town needs b. NextSun offering a 15% discount to the town of Brattleboro. Should the BEC accept this discount? c. Tesla charging station with 8 ports is being installed at the Price Chopper plaza, right next to Canal St	b. Paul will have the renewable subcommittee will investigate this proposal
3). Transportation	No updates	
F). New subcommittee proposal	-One proposal is to create subcommittee specific to biomass projects that come into town. -Ralph proposing a subcommittee that look at asking Green Mountain Power to designate Brattleboro as a microgrid. Look at proposals and review advanced microgrid, integrated, and future energy systems. Possible names: Integrated, Resilient, Systems -Integrated Energy Systems subcommittee can be the name (subcommittee members can refine name as see fit)	-Motion to approve formation of subcommittee. Michael will lead subcommittee. 8 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstains
G). Feedback and next meeting date/topic/speaker	-Next meeting: Monday, January 5 <sup>th</sup> , 5:00pm, Hanna Cosman Room, Brattleboro Municipal Center -PACE subcommittee look at local proposal/option for local PACE project -Thank you and congratulations to members for all the hard work related to the town net metered project, going online this week	