

Brattleboro Energy Committee Draft Minutes 12/5/2016

Attendees: Michael Bosworth, Milt Eaton, Mary McLaughlin, Tad Montgomery, Kathleen White

A. Meeting called to order at 5:10 PM. Agenda reviewed, no additions or changes

B. Nov 7, 2016 minutes: approved 5-0.

Ralph Meima has submitted his resignation due to too many evening meetings for his job. He wishes us well. He was our vice-chair.

We now have 1 opening on the committee and an opening for vice chair position.

Action: Michael will let selectboard know, so they can post the opening. Michael will send email to all BEC members to inform them of vice chair opening.

C. Announcements: Tad: a. Shared study of greenhouse gas emissions from wood pellet stoves, showing large improvement over oil and natural gas burning furnaces

b. Tad (with help from EV) is working on life cycle analysis of new fire station to see how much \$ could have been saved if maximum insulation had been used in it's construction. The model will project 50 years. Tad will write an article about this and send to Reformer and Commons.

c. Library boiler has a crack. This should give incentive to the Town to purchase a new boiler, which was in the building energy audit recommendations.

Michael: a. Meeting to explain new energy siting bill (Act 174) 7PM, Wednesday 12/7 at MCGC.

D. 2016 BEC Annual Report to Selectboard review: Discussed, made changes and whittled down to 14 slides.

Action: Michael will give copies to Selectboard members at the meeting Tuesday, Dec 6, and present report(probably at 8:00 or so). All BEC members encouraged to attend if possible.

E. Carbon Tax public forum: Michael talked to VPIRG, VNRC and VCRD, looking for a neutral facilitator. None are neutral. Approached Commons, but no response. May ask them again. League of Women Voters, Reformer and WTSA were suggested as possible facilitators. Need to consider appropriate timing for a forum. Probably would not be possible before February.

F. Windham County Renewable Energy Program: (Grants through WRC) Michael talked with some downtown business owners (including Bob Stevens) that a grant such as this might make rooftop solar feasible. Also emailed Downtown Business Alliance about this. Grants due end of March. Point system for ranking applications: points received for serving underserved communities and if municipalities apply. These grants could also possibly help support local microgrid.

G. Sub-Committee reports/updates: Transportation sub-committee is planning a meeting for early January. No time for other updates.

H. Next meeting: Mary requested change meeting to 2nd Monday, Jan 9. Possible topic: Act 174 (Energy Development Improvement Act). Speaker: possibly Marion Major.

Feedback: Michael should send out a meeting reminder the day before each meeting, as some of our members have expressed that they forget.

Action: Michael will check with BEC members about best date for next meeting, Jan 2 or Jan 9. Michael will send out meeting reminders the day prior.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen White