

Minutes: December 07, 2015

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Town Energy Coordinator: Paul Cameron

Attendees: Mike Bosworth, Tad Montgomery, George Harvey, Tom Finnell, Bob Rueter, Kathleen White

Guests: Mike Auerbach, Liz Strassman

Topic	Discussion	Action
Minutes approval	November minutes: Tad had asked that BEC have more involvement in the town bldg. audit process. Nov. minutes amended to include that request.	October minutes approved 6-0; November minutes approved 6-0.
Introductions, announcements	<p>Liz Strassman, friend of Tad's, visiting today to learn more about energy related issues. Mike Auerbach from BUHS visiting to talk about Project Atlantic.</p> <p>Paul: a. Zero Energy Now! Grant from GMP to convert at least 50 existing homes to net zero energy in 2016. Passed pamphlet around. b. BEC annual report on Selectboard agenda Jan 5. David Schoales asked Paul to inform us there will be 1 opening on the Selectboard. Would be great to have an energy committee member.</p> <p>Tad: a.thanked Paul for his work on organizing the VECAN event. Feedback on conference is welcome. b. SEON meets 3rd Wednesdays at 4 PM. Open mtgs. Will meet with Windham Career Center's Bob Simeon at next mtg to talk about bringing more "energy" awareness to building trades at the career ctr.</p> <p>George: writing an article about the Aquion Battery for Green Energy Times—very exciting. It can discharge 7000 times (good for 20 years or so). Dealer in Boxboro, MA.</p>	<p>All encouraged to attend January S'bd mtg.</p> <p>George will share info about the Aquion battery at the IES subcommittee mtg.</p>
Mike Auerbach, Project Atlantic	<p>Mike teaches science at BUHS: purpose of project to get teens involved in looking at energy here at home and abroad. 2012-13 was the first year: students made short films about wind, solar, novel nuclear power technologies, district heating, biomass, etc. Presented at VECAN. Received \$1000 grant from Grassroots Environmental Fund. Trying to decide how to use it. This year, small class of 8-9 students. Divided into 4 groups, each with a focus: Brattleboro as a nexus for green building; Energy issues in the developed vs developing worlds; Consequences of individual consumer and lifestyle choices affect energy use in the world: will follow 2 people, touches on food, transportation, etc.; Evaluating sources of information, based around Harvey Blatt's <u>America's Environmental Report Card</u>. Students will create short videos again and they will be placed on the website. (which?). Have gotten recognition for films done in past years. Mike's goal: to move the model statewide of engaging students in energy work being done locally and globally. He'd like to see at least 12-100 energy committees around the state take this on, to form a "brain trust" (centralized repository of information schools can use). Tad suggested Mike have students compare the energy use in producing a local head of lettuce vs one shipped from California—get the numbers. Also, have students talk to people who are non-believers of climate change and assess their arguments. George suggested students look at materials from the military that state climate change is our biggest security threat. Paul recommended seeing Merchants of Doubt, a film about well financed campaign to discredit climate science.</p>	<p>Mike will send written description of Project Atlantic to BEC. Paul will distribute this and Mike's email address to BEC members. Let Mike know if you have anything to contribute to these topics or want to be involved.</p>
FY 2016 work plan review & approval	<p>Paul has incorporated changes suggested at past few meetings. We have accomplished some items in the plan. Efficiency of town fleet of vehicles added. During later discussion on BEC Annual Report recommendations, work plan amended by 6-0 vote to include: Investigate retro-commissioning of WWTP.</p>	<p>FY2016 BEC workplan approved 6-0</p>
BEC annual report	<p>Paul & Michael attended recent select board meeting to share some of BEC data. They met with Peter Elwell last week to review the annual report; he was fine with it. BEC needs to endorse it prior to sharing</p>	<p>Annual Report approved 6-0</p>

	<p>with select board in January. Our mission & goals follow town & state guidelines, and Vt energy & climate goals from draft 2015 Comprehensive Energy Plan.</p> <p>Town investments in energy efficiency have produced significant savings. Reviewed slides:</p> <p>Tad suggested reworking the graph on streetlight costs to better show the dramatic decrease since streetlights were changed to LED (started in 2011- completed 2013).</p> <p>Total Annual Energy Savings: \$184K; Electric & heating costs slide shows why we are doing the energy audits of town buildings--to find more energy savings opportunities. Trends slide shows where costs are down or up. Current projects (efficiencies and renewables) shows saving from solar project in Westminster, Solar Summer results.</p> <p>Planned Projects: EV charging station High/Grove lot; 2nd Solar Summer or a more holistic campaign.</p> <p>Recommendations: develop & implement life cycle cost analysis for Town purchases (town is working on this); implement recommended energy conservation measures from Town Building Audits; purchase added credits from WSWMD solar project (with est saving of \$50K per year); Investigate converting methane generator at WWTP to net metered system, as the electricity generated is worth more by selling to grid.</p> <p>Tad suggested we add 1 item to recommendations: retro-commissioning of WWTP, to ensure operating at max efficiency. EVT should cover half the cost of the audit. Decided to add this to Work Plan instead and discuss with town when audit results are discussed.</p>	
Project/subcommittee reports	<p>EE: Tad has wanted to be more involved with audit project. Energy Efficiency subcommittee will be the group to meet with Margaret about the audits, but all members of BEC will be invited. Tad, Michael and Bob want to be cc'd. Tad suggested each BEC member adopt one of the 6 core buildings and work with Margaret to make sure she doesn't miss concerns. Paul assured us that Margaret has worked with people who know the buildings and that she is detail oriented and working hard to "cover all the bases".</p> <p>Integrated Energy systems: Tom says VELCO switchyard by VY is an unutilized resource. We should be ready to act if something is proposed or be proactive to propose something beneficial there.</p> <p>Transportation: Smart Commute: Paul set up mtg with Paul Smith to talk about van pooling interest at WSESU.</p> <p>-Becky Jones has worked out data of medical cost saving by encouraging people to walk or bike to work. Some of savings could be used to improve infrastructure for walking/biking.</p> <p>-Electric vehicles: Paul & Michael talked with Peter Elwell about possibility of EV purchases for town. He suggested talk to Dept Heads in Feb after budgets prepared. Working to get a contract with GMP or VEIC for a fast charger in High/Grove lot, to install spring 2016.</p> <p>-Safe Streets project is looking to have a community meeting about making our community more walkable/bikable/livable/safer. Kathleen and Alice Charkes will take this idea to the Traffic Safety Committee. Tad asked to be on mailing list for this.</p>	<p>-Paul will ask Patrick to invite the EE subcommittee to mtgs with Margaret and let her know EE is available to assist if needed.</p> <p>-Paul will send out list of all sub-committees and members to BEC to clarify who is on which committees.</p> <p>-Michael will get IES group together in Dec. if possible.</p>
Norwich Energy Committee letter to PSB re net-metering.	Brief discussion about BEC signing on.	6-0 approval to sign on.
Next meeting date/topic/speaker	Discuss Solar Summer ideas and building performance measure.	Next meeting date: January 4, 2016, 5 PM.

--	--	--