

Minutes: 10/01/2012

Group: Brattleboro Energy Committee

Attendees: Jed, Lester Humphries, Gary Stroud, Bob Rueter, Kathleen White, Jason Cooper, Paul Cameron, Ralph Meima

Topic	Discussion	Action
<p>Agenda review and Approval of Sept minutes</p>	<p>Gary moved to approve the September minutes with a few corrections. Jason seconded.</p>	<p>September minutes approved, with one abstention.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solar Workshop Oct 20, 9AM to Noon. 2. Thermal House is hosting an energy fair Oct 6, with demos of insulation, activities for kids, drawings for discounts on audits, free food, donations for Heat Fund, etc. 3. Lester and Paul met with Town finance committee to tell them what BED is working on to see if it would affect the town budget. 4. Tuesday Oct 30 is meeting in Townshend... 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please spread the word. Paul will email details to BEC. People should RSVP to Paul. 2. Bob will send announcement to Jed and Paul to forward.
<p>Sub-Committee reports</p>	<p>PACE: Paul met with Bob Fisher 2 weeks ago. he still has concerns. Paul provided references for him of lawyers who have worked with towns that voted for PACE (Bill Ellis and a Middlebury town planner). Vt still has not lined up the funds for PACE. BEC web page has a good summary of PACE details.</p> <p>Renewables: Making some progress on a service contract for town to purchase solar power. Considering 500 kw per agreement. Town uses 2 MW; would need 4 service contracts to buy all of town's power needs. Would do an RFP, asking for best deal they can give for a term of 10, 20, or 30 years (different rates per term) and with a buy out option. The company buys the property, sets up system and power comes to the town at a discount price. Would not be on town land. Will need certificate of public good (solar company would deal with that). Solar vendors would also be making decisions about placement of solar panels vs the town. Have met with some select people and they are</p>	<p>PACE: Paul wil talk with Bill Ellis to find out if there will be any charge for their time to talk with Bob Fisher. Paul will remind Bob of the timeline he agreed to, to get PACE on the 2013 town meeting warning.</p> <p>Renewables: Add to RFP that \$ saving data be available to town. Look at higher fees for peak energy use that town is paying. Paul and Lester will ask Dora and Ken whether aesthetics is a concern for selectboard. Motion that BEC endorse this approach to</p>

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	<p>warming up to the idea. Will meet with Ken and Dora this week. Soveren, Integrated Solar, and Delta Energy Group have approached BEC. Installers want the business. Investors get the tax credit. Risk for town? Price of system may decrease over a few years, so town may want to wait. Longer we wait, losing the benefit of less expensive power. Bob moved that BEC endorse this approach to getting the town to use some solar power. Kathleen seconded.</p> <p>Transportation: The business roundtable is meeting 10/17 at BMH noon to 1 PM. David Blittersdorf will speak on his company's incentive program for employees to decrease their energy use. The committee is working with WRC to get data on people's communiting patterns. A summit on commuting in the Keen/Brattleboro corrider is being planned.</p> <p>4. Efficiency: a. Honeywell project: Discussed whether to refinance the loan. Town pays \$17K/year to Honeywell to take care of the system. Discussion of options and money that could be saved for different length loan terms. Leaning toward keeping term of loan the same, but possibly renegotiate the loan rate. Any change would need approval by town reps. We lose money every month on the loan, but will start saving once the term of the loan is up.</p> <p>b. Police/Fire renovation project: good opportunity to make efficiency recommendations. Getting data on state energy code--minimum standards for energy use (BTUs) per square foot. Bob Stevens encouraged BEC to decide on a target to advocate for, based on how much it will cost and how much it will save the town, and take to selectboard. All 3 buildings should have an energy audit. EV can provide 1/2 funds for that. The rest of the Municipal Bldg should have an audit as well (separate project from police renovation).</p>	<p>solar power for the town approved.</p> <p>4.b. Paul will contact Chuck of EV and Paul Markowitz to help with designing a concrete proposal.</p>

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	<p>c. Streetlighting: LEDs are being installed on Cedar St.; next will be Western Ave.</p> <p>An aside: Dick DeGray suggested BEC get a seat at Dept Head meetings to be informed early about projects being considered, to determine which ones need energy considerations.</p> <p>5. European Model: Ralph will put feelers out to teachers in the next few weeks to get this project started. He has reconnected with George Harvey. Is doing some energy work with Sweden. More to report next meeting.</p>	
2012-13 Work Plan	Short on time for this discussion.	Move to November agenda.
Electric Vehicle Charging Station Project	Gordon Bristol is putting a solar array on the annex to the Stone Church on Grove St. Would like to reserve 2 parking spaces for solar charging. Needs BEC endorsement. Bob Johnson is financing this.	Motion made to endorse solar charging station on Grove St. All in favor. Jed will send out link to Youtube on TESLA superchargers in California.
By-law change	Because we changed our meeting day , we need to change the by-law. Bob suggested we change the by-laws to say meeting dates and time to be decided by members.	Warn the by-law change at November meeting and vote on it the following meeting.
Next meeting	Jed suggested we invite someone to talk to us about electric vehicle chargers in town. There are 2 in the transportation center that are obsolete, on the list to be replaced, but it's not in the budget.	Next meeting November 5, 5:00. Jed or Paul will look into who could speak to us on towns current electric vehicle chargers.

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