

# Brattleboro Energy Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 5-6:30 PM, Hannah Cosman Room, Brattleboro Municipal Center

**Town Energy Coordinator:** Phoebe Gooding

**Committee Members Present:** Michael Bosworth, Kathleen White, Tad Montgomery, Thomas Finnell, George Harvey, RoseAnn Grimes, Oscar Heller

Topic	Discussion	Action
A). Call to order, Agenda review		
B). Approval of May Minutes [5 min.]	Discussion of Tad's & Michael's proposed edits & additions.	Approved with all edits/amendments : 2 <sup>nded</sup> ; 7-0-0
C). Check-in, Introductions, Announcements [10]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Windham Regional Commission passed a draft policy on utility-scale wind that would deem it incompatible with "Resource Lands" and "Productive Rural Lands," which make up a significant majority of all the land in the area.</li> <li>● Request to put the question -- of Brattleboro signing onto the U.S. Climate Alliance re: the Paris Climate Accord -- onto the next BEC monthly agenda.</li> <li>● Foundation Center Training at Brooks Library for town department heads &amp; others: June 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM. Enter side door.</li> <li>● Michael has been working with Joey Miller at VNRC on a climate panel in the area. VBSR is being considered as the primary sponsor. Possibly in July.</li> <li>● Michael talked with SEON about their being the fiscal sponsor for the non-profit that would be involved with the energy coordinator position. To be discussed with their board. A separate non-profit might be established for this. Bill Pearson, who worked with BCP, is willing to help. Mike will take lead.</li> <li>● Mike is meeting with the Energy Action Network on Wed. to talk about their logic behind the community energy dashboard, esp. re tracking towns' progress towards VT's 2050 Clean Energy Plan goals.</li> <li>● George announced the 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of his daily energy blog.</li> </ul>	

<p>D). Looking ahead to July and beyond:  - meeting schedule  - committee members whose terms are expiring  [5]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee members whose terms are expiring: Kathleen (can only be on BEC for one more year), Tad, RoseAnn, Tom. Applications due by 6/15. There's one additional open seat.</li> <li>• Possible BEC special meeting June 26<sup>th</sup> to talk with Peter Elwell as well as Bob Spencer and John Fay (sp?) re WSWMD energy projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting moved to July 10<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Tad proposed that BEC formally vote to invite Tom Franks to attend BEC meetings. 2<sup>nd</sup>cd; 6-0-1.</li> <li>• Kathleen will invite him.</li> </ul>
<p>E). Future work with Peter Elwell: [10]  - help investigate Sustainability Officer possibilities;  - review and advising on capital improvement projects;  - invite him to one of our meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Officer: Such a position has been created in Hartford/White River Jct. Mike, RoseAnn, Tad &amp; Tom Franks expressed interest in helping.</li> <li>• Peter is very open to BEC reviewing/advising on the energy-related renovations of the Municipal Center. Wants to go even further than Margaret Dillon's recommendations.</li> <li>• One other project is the water treatment plant upgrades. This is on the Selectboard's agenda for June 6.</li> <li>• Selectboard approved a Parking Enterprise Fund budget that includes funding for a new pellet boiler in the Transportation Center.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion: form a subcommittee to work with Peter Elwell on the sustainability coordinator position: 6-0-0.  Members: RoseAnn, Mike, Tad, possibly Tom Franks</p>
<p>F.) Downtown Brattleboro Building Energy Program [15]</p>	<p>Tad presented the same basic proposal that he has developed and that BEC previously supported, but that Tad has fleshed out more. Tad asking for BEC thoughts about it. Tad asking for BEC thoughts about it. Could help town meet Paris climate targets. Might BEC want to take on this project? Publicity campaign would be a large part of it. Getting tenants talking to landlords about signing on and undertaking major energy upgrades. Comfort and saving money are a good combination. Funding sources? The budget is ~\$200,000 and includes raising funds for audits. State Treasurer's office is interested in financing businesses' projects—set up a special low interest loan program for this with a local bank or institution. Deep energy retrofits, lighting, windows, storage, renewable energy, whatever each building needs.</p> <p>Dan Yates of BS&amp;L has been promoting the proposal with our congressional delegation. R.T. at the BDCC thinks it needs more development. Why hasn't EVT endorsed it? Tad asked if BDCC would pull all stakeholders together to see what they need to make it happen. George suggested talking with Jason Cooper regarding the possible inclusion of large battery</p>	<p>Motion: form a Downtown Bratt Energy Program subcommittee: 5-0-1 (Tad abstained, Oscar had left). Tad, Oscar, Phoebe, RoseAnn joined the sub-committee.</p>

	<p>storage.</p> <p>Phoebe suggested a snazzier name that people could connect to.</p>	
G). Development of a draft FY 2018 Work Plan [30]	<p>Michael would like a draft work plan by the July BEC meeting. Individual visions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GH: Brattleboro &amp; some surrounding communities incorporated into a mini-grid that could be islanded, self sustainable and run entirely off Renewable Energy. Bulk purchase programs for electric vehicles, human powered vehicles.</li> <li>● TF: Ditto GH's vision, looking to possibly two mini-grids based on Brattleboro's two sub-stations.</li> <li>● RG: Focus on keeping environmental conservation planning as part of the planning for renewable energy, microgrids, etc. Ex: SIT's solar array that is multi-functional with agriculture.</li> <li>● KW: Continued work to make Brattleboro more bike &amp; pedestrian &amp; public transit friendly. Reduce car dependence. A vision of Brattleboro leading the region in moving away from single occupancy vehicles and toward more human-powered &amp; electric transportation, and improved bus systems.</li> <li>● TM: Bratt becomes climate neutral and starts exporting clean energy &amp; ideas to other towns and regions.</li> <li>● MB: All Brattleborians understand what it will take to get to the VT CEP 2050 goals and commit to achieving it.</li> <li>● PG: Is BEC focus more on town/municipal buildings or residential? What is the BEC mission? Vision statement?</li> </ul>	<p>Motion: form an ad hoc sub-committee to take these notes and work on BEC mission statement, vision statement and work plan. 2<sup>nd</sup>. 6-0-0. Members: Mike, Phoebe, Kathleen.</p>
H). Subcommittee Reports: [10]		
1. Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Zero Energy Now		
2. Transportation	<p>Sub-committee meeting happened May 24<sup>th</sup>. A question arose about whether the town website could have pages relating to energy and transportation issues. Phoebe mentioned that 350.org might have websites already created that could help with this.</p>	<p>Kathleen will talk with Jan Anderson about the possibility of more web pages, social media, etc.</p>
3. Integrated Energy Systems		
4. Energy Data		

<p>I). Feedback, next meeting date/topic/ speaker</p>	<p>Adjourned at 7 PM. Next meeting: Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 5-6:30 PM at the Hanna Cosman Room, Brattleboro Municipal Center Ideas for Next Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● BEC oversight of Phoebe's role, responsibilities and supervision.</li><li>● Discuss Brattleboro becoming a signatory of the U.S. Climate Alliance re the Paris Climate Accord.</li></ul>	
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