

BRISTOL ENERGY COMMITTEE (BEC)

Minutes – Wednesday, Jan 20, 7pm

Barash Mediation Office – 27B Main St, Bristol

(Across from National Bank of Middlebury)

Voting Members: attendees

Mike Corey – Energy Educator

Bob Donnis – Retired Efficiency VT Employee

Brendan Gallivan – Solar & Wind Advisor (via email)

Sue Hawkins – UVM Extension – Sustainable Agriculture (Energy & More)

Wendy McArdle – Previous Director of Energy Action Network and VT Energy Educ Program (VEEP)

Matt Sharpe – Senior Energy Consultant, Efficiency Vermont

Advisers:

Dave Cobb – Solar Advisor

John McCormick – Environment Advisor

Minutes:

1) Visitor's business - none

2) Brendan – Electric Car charging station status

Current possible locations include

- a. Old High School
 - i. Good option in terms of space and parking, but no three phase power at that location
- b. Howden Hall
 - i. Limited space and parking, but three phase power is close by (needs to be extended 2 poles).
- c. Location on the back side of the Green
 - i. Might be some resistance to more structures on the Green
- d. Wendy suggested parking lot to the right of Shaws
 - i. Owned by Earnie Pomerleau (sp)
 - ii. 3 phase power?
 - iii. Brendan agreed in email to follow up on thi option

Brenda will follow up with Ian Albinson to determine next steps, but ultimately we will need to summarize our findings, make a recommendation for locations and present to the Select Board.

3) Wendy – GoVermont/GoAddisonCo Update

- a. Reviewed text of the FPF/Town Website/BEC Facebook announcement of the transportation survey – see attached
 - i. Note: I have since made a couple additions in yellow
- b. Reviewed the introduction to the survey itself
 - i. Recommended that 2 sentences be removed: (In yellow below) or
 - ii. That BEC be removed from the intro (blue)

The Bristol Energy Committee wants to hear your thoughts on transportation. What should the committee be working on to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels? What do you need to create

some new transportation habits that could put money back in your pocket?

- iii. Voted to participate in the survey pending the changes shown above – unanimous.
- iv. Wendy to follow up with Nadine Barnicle
- v. Update 1/22 – Nadine has agreed to delete the sentences in yellow.
- vi. Next step – get the survey link and announce the survey on FPF, Town Website, BEC Facebook

4) Brendan – Main St LED lighting

Brendan found some information on the manufacturer and possible LED replacement.

- The lights are made by Sternberg Lighting out of Roselle Ill. They are
- style #1130A Ripon with a Decatur base - 4510-FP4.
 - They look to have a number of different lamp options, so we'll have to determine what they are currently installed with to compare to the LED options.
- They have an LED version as well <http://www.sternberglighting.com/ripon-1130aled/>.
 - The LED version looks to run from 32-94W, depending upon the desired Lumen output.
- Scott Kimble of Visible Light Inc. out of NH is the manufacturer's rep through whom we order things. His contact info is...
 - skimball.visible@lighting.net
 - (603) 926-6049
 - Suite 6
 - 24 Stickney Terrace
 - Hampton NH 03842
 - website is www.visible-light.net
- Brendan will reach out to Scott to determine what our options are.
- Question from Mike: does it have to be a full fixture change out, or just replace the bulb with LED

5) Bob – Community Solar (CS) for Bristol Status

Sites Looked at:

- Bristol Landfill – ruled out by Engineer who did the closing
- Mt Abe Roof – ruled out due to fire code roof top spacing requirements
- 30 acre parcel in Bridport – killed by GMP reaching 15% cap on solar
 - Solar application approved to date reach the cap in mid 2016
- GMP proposal to PSB:
 - Allow residential roof top solar
 - Allow additional 7.5MW with conditions
 - Each one no bigger than 150KW (about an acre)
 - (Note: 150KW=235,000KWh/Yr=about 40 homes)

- Landowner must reside on the property and offtake either 2% of the output or 50% of his/her consumption whichever is lower.
- Other conditions of the PSB and ACRPC
 - a) Not on prime farm land
 - b) Not in prime view shed
 - c) Not sky-lined – ie about the horizon
 - d) Naturally screened
 - e) Brown fields ok
 - f) Pasture ok – esp if pasturing continues
 - g) close to 3 phase power
 - h) Bill in legislature may change/add to these conditions
- Possibilities going forward
 - ACORN has a previously approved 150KW site
 - Selling panels to ACORN members in a couple months
 - Only ¼ of the panels will be offered
 - Find an acceptable acre in Bristol – send ideas to Bob
 - Find an acceptable acre in neighboring town, and buy panels once developed
 - Lincoln has potential site near 3 phase – Bob will explore
 - Wendy suggested Sending an RFP to tell developers we are interested in solar farm if they can find one in the area that would be approved.
 - Bob to draft it.
 - Buy panels in other solar farms in VT
 - Buy shares in SunCommon – guaranteed 7%, very small fees up front
- **KEY NEWS!!**
 - Congress has approved and President Obama has signed an **extension of the 30% investment tax credit** for solar development through 2019, with reductions in the % in 2020 and beyond
 - This was due to expire at the end of 2016
 - This extension will be a boost to further development of solar installations in the US

6) Mike – VECAN Conference Report

- a. Mike to report at Feb meeting

7) John McCormick – Preparing VT for Climate Change Future

- Getting interest from the Environmental Club at Mt Abe has not been fruitful
- Now working on alternative proposal for a carbon tax
 - Uses the revenues for energy reduction actions
 - Eg significant rebates for buttoning up your home so you use less fuel
 - Eg significant rebates for higher mileage cars/trucks
 - New vehicles
 - Used vehicles with better mpg than current vehicle
 - And other
 - The idea is to raise the cost of fossil fuels while providing ways for people to reduce how much they use.
(Not just provide a non-directive tax rebate as proposed by VPIRG)

8) FPF TIPS to be posted

A) Sue – Lighting Terminology

- Sue to send draft around once more and post before going to Hawaii (envy, envy!!)

- B) Mike – Basements
- C) Bob – Re-post Walk-thrus
- D) Sue – Greenhouse Opportunities
- E) **Brendan?** – Water Heater
- F) Bob – Washers and Dryers
- G) Mike – Insulation and Air Sealing
- H) **Matt?** – 10% tax credits for Heat Pumps, Boilers, Furnaces, Bio-Mass Stoves, Windows, etc
- I) Other ideas

(Note: Process for TIPS is to email them to all BEC members for review before posting).

9) Meeting Times

- a. Fixed date/time each month: 3rd Wed at 7PM
- b. NEXT: **FEB 17**

10) Other