



**TOWN OF BRISTOL
ENERGY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 16, 2019 7:00 PM
Lawrence Memorial Library**

MINUTES

**Energy Committee
Members**

Ian Albinson, Chair
Sally Burrell
Richard Butz
David Cobb
Michael Corey
Liston Freeman
John McCormick

Energy Committee Members present: Ian Albinson, Sally Burrell, Richard Butz, Mike Corey, Liston Freeman, and John McCormick.

Others present: filming for NEAT - Shawn Billops

I. Call to order: 7:00 PM

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting December 19, 2018

III. Scheduled Appointments

7:10pm: Emily Eckert, Tesla Energy Advisor – called in to the meeting to discuss an event for Bristol similar to a recent Brandon event. She is a solar, storage and electric vehicle (EV) consultant. Her proposal is to bring 2-3 Electric Vehicles to the Bristol Green for people, who have signed up ahead of time, to test drive for an hour and discuss. Inside Holley Hall there would be a table and informational banners for solar energy and home power wall storage in relation to EV charging. Ian asked Emily about municipal power walls. She said a new GMP power wall program is coming soon and may be applicable for municipal buildings. March 9th or 16th are possible dates for the event and Ian will check back with Emily to schedule, possibly adding March 5th for a viewing of a Tesla on the green when folks in town on voting day could sign up for a test drive at the March event.

BEC may organize a spring Eco festival for conservation, efficiency and renewable energy, possibly on Green Up Day, inviting local solar companies, heat pump providers, GMP, ACORN and others, as well as having various electric cars and e-bikes present (and maybe even an electric pick-up truck?). Emily said she would bring a Tesla 3 and folks could sign-up that day for test drives to be held at a later date.

IV. New business

Gas Pipeline Public Forum – Richard’s Community Forum Idea for Bristol’s Pipeline Issue: Ask Fred Baser to moderate as people speak about their concerns, which would be recorded and listed. It would not take place before Town Meeting. The single question, to keep it focused, would be: “Is it appropriate to expand the pipeline into Bristol?”

Discussion ensued with questions about it being contentious, biased, safe enough for sharing without fear of judgement or correction, attended by enough people? What is the purpose? Similar to a survey? Would it be an educational opportunity? Or simply a coming together to hear each other’s perspectives?



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Would there be a professional arbiter present? Or a panel of experts? The discussion was tabled for now to give time for reflection.

V. Current business

Button-up Hero Program – Ian heard from Efficiency VT regarding the final list of walk-thru recipients and those still waiting. Ian will send us the guidelines to follow up with folks and offer assistance, which is an important part of the program. Maybe we'll get some case studies that would be helpful for future Button-Up efforts.

Town Energy Planning Element Pilot – The grant goes to Andrew at ACRPC and it may take 6 months or more. Richard and Ian along with Planning Commission members, Robert and Mark, are working with Andrew on the draft, 28 page template. Identifying preferred renewable sites is an important part of the project. The Planning Commission is waiting for solidification on the solar section of the Enhanced Energy Plan in order to answer Green Lantern's proposal for an array on land off 116 south, across from the gravel pit. It will also be important to learn how much solar capacity the route 116 power lines can accommodate. The Town meters spreadsheet will help in accounting for locally generated electricity in the most cost effective way. In December electricity cost the Town \$6488. \$2500 was for water and \$1500 was for all street lights. BEC should check with Water and Sewer and maybe look into the water pump motor for a possible efficiency upgrade.

Town Landfill Solar – Waterbury town manager, William S, found that with their municipal solar arrays, designating certain percentages for each meter worked best (eg 60% for water, 10% for street lights). He also said the Green Lantern array has under performed from the start and GL sold their contract to a CO company. Springfield had a similar experience and Dave Cobb says GL has shown that kind of practice. Getting more bids is advisable for due diligence on the solar projects proposed by Green Lantern and any future projects. Also, communicating with the selectboard and planning and conservation commissions about projects from the start will be important.

Committee Members – Ian hasn't written a letter yet, but spoke with John Moyers and he is interested. John is also hesitant to try joining a committee after being denied a seat on the Planning Commission and losing the race for Selectboard twice. He is a great candidate for the Energy Committee with his expertise in renovation, cost effective renewable energy systems, being a property owner, and especially his long term strategic thinking and planning. John could be an advisor until appointed. Ian will write a letter to him with an official invite and will champion him in the process.

State weatherization funding – John's McCormick's projects, including his draft weatherization legislation. Rep. Mari Cardes submitted BEC's draft weatherization bill to GA Legislative Council. John has contact info for 132 energy committee chairs in Vermont to help spread the word. John is encouraging a Seven Days or VTDigger piece to show the health impacts of climate change and to quantify the cost of un-weatherized homes (sick days, emergency room visits, etc). Jared Ulmer (health) and Dan Quinlan (health professionals) are interested in the bill. Starting with VTDigger commentary on John's piece, John McCormick (BEC) and John McCloughry (V.P. Ethan Allen



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Institute) began an ongoing conversation across their differences on energy issues. John is following the progress of the Georgetown Univ. project Transportation and Climate Initiative; a collective of 11 Northeastern Governors discussing how to create a cap and invest program on transportation fuels (aka RGGI).. Deputy Sec ANR, Peter Walke is spokesperson for Governor Scott.

Other Discussions

Public Forum will be at the beginning of the BEC agenda for now on.

Ian will be away Feb 20th. Sally will gather input from all members and create an agenda. Facilitator and minute taker TBD. We'll meet at Holley Hall's meeting room. Ian will schedule that and change it on the website. When Ian returns we'll discuss meeting format/member roles.

Richard connected with Mike regarding their exceptional friend, Tom Talier, and shared about Tom's inspiring projects in Haiti and elsewhere, that are low tech, low cost, creative, workable and pragmatic. Sean, who also knows Tom, chimed in with affirmation.

VI. Public Forum

None.

VII. Next Meetings

February 20, 2019 – Location change to Town Offices

March 6, 2019 – Joint meeting with Starksboro Energy Committee

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Voting Members

Ian Albinson, Sally Burrell, Dave Cobb, Mike Corey, Liston Freeman, John McCormick, Richard Butz

Advisors

Bob Donnis, Matt Sharpe, Wendy Wilson