

## Energy Committee Meeting

February 18, 2020

Members attending: Wendy Sharkey, Michael Kusar, Bruce Lierman, Nancy Thompson, Deanna Oakes, Jeannie Jenkins.

Four members of the public attended.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

The first task was to approve the January minutes. No one had questions or comments. Wendy moved to approve the minutes. Bruce seconded. The minutes were approved.

From March on, the committee will be meeting at the Bennington Free Library on the third Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8 pm.

Bruce Lierman gave an update on a BCRC meeting he attended in Shaftsbury that focused on creating public relations efforts in local newspapers. All the energy committees that attended seemed to be interested in participating. If all participate, each would be responsible for two to three articles per year. It is unclear whether Allison Strohl at BCRC wants articles ideas or articles. Michael offered to write up a first article on a neighbor's purchase of an EV and submit it to Allison.

It was suggested that members of the committee might want to respond to negative articles about climate that might appear in the Banner.

The next agenda item was the focused items to be forwarded to the Select Board. Michael Kusar reviewed the list of categorized recommendations. It was noted by a member of the public that the categorized list lacks a central focus and a suggestion was made for the committee to present a resolution to the select board that the town hire an energy executive director to implement beneficial changes. It was noted that a liaison is different from someone who can put the ideas into action. The committee reviewed its original charge, which is to prioritize goals and make suggestions for implementation. The committee discussed a number of options for going forward.

It was noted that the categorized goals have been presented to the Select Board.

Discussion was held around the point that some of the ideas might be more easily implemented than others and why.

Bill Christian offered to talk with Larry McCloud about building codes and what the impediments are to enforcing them.

Jeannie offered to check in with Dan Monks about the energy audits.

A question was raised as to whether contractors could be required to be certified as energy efficient builders.

A public member shared the climate advocates group's implementation ideas that it plans to share with the Select Board.

A recommendation was focused on the point to "Help publicize "smart grid" technology and use of "smart rate" pricing plans. (Committee as liaison with GMP to do PR/education)

Wendy offered to research building codes and code changes.

Members would like info back on these tasks the week before the next meeting. The next meeting will be the 17<sup>th</sup> of March at 7 pm at the Bennington Free Library.

Madison Kremer, member of the public, shared that she has been accepted into a statewide Climate Catalysts leadership program and that she is focusing on a Window Dresser program that will specifically target low and moderate income households.

Nancy moved to adjourn. Deanna seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.