

Bennington Energy Committee Minutes

September 10, 2020

Via Zoom

Committee members present: Michael Kuser, Wendy Sharkey, Jeannie Jenkins; Bruce Lierman, Nancy Thompson

Advisory members present: Bill Christian, Michael Weber representing Marsh Hudson-Knapp; Madison Kremer; David Durfee

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

August minutes: Wendy moved to approve the minutes. Nancy seconded. The minutes were approved.

Madison Kremer reported on her discussion with Stephen Dotson, Brattleboro's sustainability/energy coordinator. Madison sent the position's job description to the committee members via email. Discussion was held around the difference between sustainability and energy efficiency. The committee asked relevant questions about the interrelationship of various committees. The Brattleboro Select Board meeting is 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Research into EV and hybrid police vehicles: Michael Weber informed the committee about what Marsh has been learning about EV and hybrid police vehicles, and explained that Marsh has been reading a number of articles on the topic and has favorable opinions. Michael Weber had no recommendations regarding Climate Advocates interest in helping people navigate the process for adopting new technologies (heat pumps, etc.) and state/utility incentives and rebates because he and Marsh did not discuss the topic. Experiences with trying to navigate incentives for insulation and opinions about blower door tests were shared.

Allison was not present to report on the op-eds campaign.

Adding EE to Town building ordinance: Wendy reported on recommendations to be presented to the Select Board. The specific recommendation was emailed to the energy committee. Discussion was held on the topic. Clarification was provided on the charge of the energy committee as contrasted with the responsibilities of other parties.

List of incentives for renters to include at food drop on 9/3: Deanna was not present to report on this. Jeannie explained what had and had not happened with the proposal and how they might go forward. Bill made a suggestion regarding GBICS. Madison also offered suggestions.

Partnership with BROCC on weatherization: Jeannie reported on the topic, including Covid relief money for weatherization. Jeannie explained the structure and divisions in BROCC. Jeannie also reported on form-based code planning. The committee discussed the topic and its benefits and limits. Jeannie suggested adding form based recommendations to the final document.

Efficiency Vermont incentives: Bruce reported that some of the Covid-related incentives have expired now.

2020 Button Up Campaign: Michael reported on promotions and emailed information. Jeannie made suggestions about increasing promotion awareness. Michael will reach out for advance notice. Bruce brought up the Window Dressers program and volunteered to be the coordinator with Window Dressers.

Habitat: Nancy reviewed her conversation with Susan Sommer of Habitat. The committee will pursue inviting Susan to the next meeting for a focused discussion on ways to work together.

Review recommendations to Select Board for 2021: The committee discussed how to go forward. Michael Kuser will send out the correct document to members, and the next meeting will include a discussion of the recommendations. Members should provide feedback before the next meeting.

Public comment: none.

The next meeting will be on Zoom Thursday, October 8, 2020. Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeannie seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.