

Minutes

Bennington Energy Committee Meeting

Held via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4411299103>

December 15, 2020 7 p.m.

Attending: Bruce Lierman, Michael Kuser, Jeannie Jenkins, Wendy Sharkey, Nancy Thompson, Bill Christian, Madison Kremer.

Michael Kuser called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Bruce Lierman moved to accept the November minutes; Jeannie Jenkins seconded. The minutes were approved.

Discussion of agenda items ensued:

Window Dressers Program: There will be two Window Dressers programs in Bennington County, one in the Northshire and one in the Southshire. Several received a copy of the organizing guidebook. The energy committees in the various towns will work together. A space will be needed to build the window units once the orders are made. There will be organization in spring for a fall Window Dressers campaign. Jeannie noted that space has been volunteered. There seems to be a sizable group of people interested in volunteering. Discussion was held about the foolproof nature of the program (aside from taking accurate measurement). It was noted that fundraising will need to be done.

Reviewing the recommendations to the Select Board: The latest version of the recommendations includes revisions from last month plus some made today by committee members. Some discussion was had around the form of the draft, including some ideas for how to organize the document, and changes to the draft's form and wording were made during the meeting because of that discussion. It was noted that the Select Board may want some examples in the finished document, including of how the Energy Committee and Planning Commission can work together. Discussion was held around where materials pertinent to the recommendation (and what materials) would best fit on the town website. The committee also discussed the benefit to recommending building inspections at appropriate stages of construction to help ensure that energy standards are achieved. Further discussion was held around what responsibilities might be BCRC's and what responsibilities might be the town's. The group talked about the need for key indicators and what they might be to ensure that energy and land use goals are being met.

With regard to the draft, the committee discussed where more information needs to be sought out and where more conversations regarding the recommendations need to occur, including about money.

Reactions to Michael Kuser's op-ed in the Banner about electric vehicles were also briefly discussed in the context of methods identified in the recommendations draft.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, January 5 at 7 p.m. on Zoom, with the purpose of reviewing the revised draft and voting on it before it is sent to the Select Board.

Bruce Lierman moved to adjourn; Nancy Thompson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.