

## Bennington Energy Committee

### Minutes

March 2, 2021, 7 p.m.

Meeting held on Zoom

Members and advisory members present: Michael Kuser, Wendy Sharkey, Jeannie Jenkins, Bruce Lierman, Deanna Oakes, Nancy Thompson, Jerry Byrd, Marsh Hudson-Knapp.

Michael called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Bruce moved to accept the minutes and Jeannie seconded. The minutes were approved.

The first discussion was the Select Board response to the committee's recommendations: Jeannie said that the Select Board appreciated the presentation and was impressed by its clarity. The committee has yet to be approved as a continuing program, although that was one of the recommendations. The Select Board was pleased at the work done thus far and excited at the proposed next steps. Bruce agreed that the plan seemed to be well accepted at the Select Board meeting. The committee noted that today was election day, and April 1 new Select Board members will be seated. It was suggested that the next step is to put together a work plan and move into action. Michael Kuser thanked all the committee members for the work that has been done since October 2019. Our appointments are up this May unless they are extended. If the new select board decides to continue the committee, the committee will reorganize at that time.

Marsh Hudson-Knapp was scheduled to present on composting solutions but advised he would arrive late, so the committee moved on to the Window Dressers Workshop planning discussion: Bruce Lierman reviewed what has been happening and what needs to be done for the program in the Southshire, including outreach, fundraising, and other activities. Discussion ensued regarding the necessity to coordinate fundraising with a 501c3 organization. March 10 there will be a Southshire Window Dressers meeting. The whole group (Northshire and Southshire) will be meeting March 30 at 5:30 p.m. The committee reviewed the various positions and tasks associated with the Window Dressers activity. A need for younger people was stressed, particularly in putting the inserts together. Bruce will inquire as to whether the materials are safe for latex allergies. Bruce advised people to keep track of their volunteer time.

Jerry suggested connecting with the carpentry program at Southwest Tech. Deanna will follow up with the construction program there to gauge their interest in participating in Window Dressers (Bruce will share more info on how and when they can help).

The committee opted to discuss the work plan since Marsh still had not arrived, thus leaving time in the meeting. Michael shared the list of recommendations and suggested that he would like to look into funding sources. The committee discussed various recommendations, including review and use of data. The importance of needing a baseline was stressed so that progress toward goals can be reasonably measured. Jerry, Michael, and Bruce will work together on energy committee-related recommendations 3, 8, and 9. Wendy gave an update on her progress with recommendation 2.

Election results were communicated.

Marsh was welcomed and presented on composting. He suggested that it would be useful to have a map of places in town that would accept compost. He learned that there is no designated place in town for composting except for the transfer station. Shires Housing does offer composting facilities to residents, but they are not open to the public. Jeannie noted that commercial trash haulers are required to pick up compost. It is possible that those in rentals may already have compost pick-up from commercial haulers. Marsh explained that the SCC's Sunday Suppers provide compostable materials to guests, but if people don't know how to compost them, that effort is wasted. The goal is to help guests know how to correctly dispose of the compostables. Marsh explained that no reliable symbols note that a product is compostable and BPI certified. Marsh will continue to follow up on the issue of compostables.

The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 7 pm. Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting. Wendy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.