

Bennington Energy Committee

April 6, 2021

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

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

Scott Printz (former chair of the previous energy committee) was also present.

Michael Kuser called the meeting into session at 7:03. Jeannie Jenkins was congratulated on her election to the chair of the Select Board.

The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. Jeannie moved, Wendy seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Window Dressers planning discussion: Bruce Lierman led the discussion and went over the notes from the monthly county meetings. There will be a workshop in fall, around late October-early November. The lateness will give us time to gather information. At 9 am on April 13 there will be a meeting for workshop leaders. The emphasis right now is on fundraising and outreach planning. Bruce has still not received the WD info from the org's headquarters. There was a discussion about social media and how it will be managed for the WD campaign. An approach needs to be decided on as well as who is going to do what. There will be a meeting for the South Shire group on the 14th; some of those issues will be discussed. The group also needs to discuss is the schedule constraints among the members so that a range of workshop dates can be presented when volunteers will be available. They want to have all the workshops wrapped up by Thanksgiving this year. The workshops are several days in length. Bruce discussed some of the logistics, including storage needs. The question was raised as to whether the group needs to check with the town about possible competing events. Bruce has sent out emails with links to editable documents and requested that volunteers log their time and also log outreach to potential volunteers and donors. About \$3,000 will be needed. Jeannie explained some of the financial details and considerations. Madison has created a survey form to see how much interest there is in the community for participating in the program. Bruce also noted that we cannot guarantee that materials are allergen free. Jessica Williams, the WD new program assistant, will be conducting the meeting on the 13th. Jeannie had a question about timing and when to advertise and do outreach, along with communications materials. Bruce explained that WD suggests starting outreach now.

Jeannie asked to add a new agenda item regarding re-appointments. She noted that everyone's term is up at the same time this year. A call will go out in April to see who wants to stay on (they will need to re-apply) and what new members might want to apply. New applications will be likely to be due in May, and by the end of May the new committee populations will be formed, as well as constitution of all the other boards across town. Jeannie noted that the Select Board is likely to approve the continuation of the energy committee as a whole. Members will be asked to select a two or three year term so that term ends dates can be staggered in future.

Jeannie asked if we can look at the work plan on the next agenda.

Marsh noted that haulers are not required to pick up compost from individual homes. The solid waste organization is not willing or able to tackle the issue to ensure that all residences have compost pickup. Jeannie noted that commercial waste haulers such as Tam do pick up residential compost.

Nancy raised a question about composting materials.

Michael will revisit the recommendations before the next meeting so that we can formalize a work plan at the next meeting. Michael also noted that John Casella on the NY Climate Action Council is optimistic about the future of organic compost. Marsh will call Michael Batcher to get more information about residential compost pickup. Marsh reminded people that Second Congregational Church has outdoor compost bins that people are welcome to use.

Bruce moved to adjourn, Nancy seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50.