

Bennington Energy Committee

Minutes of Wednesday, August 4, Bennington Recreation Center community Room

Those Present: William Karis, Bruce Lierman, Deanna Oakes, Bill Christian, Callie Fishburn, Richard Dundas

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

1. Attendees introduced themselves. Callie Fishburn will begin work at BCRC as a regional planner focusing on energy concerns in September, and plans to regularly attend energy committee meetings as a liaison to BCRC.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed by those present.

MSP – The minutes were approved as presented (BCL/DO)

3. Bike/Pedestrian Topics. It was noted that BCRC has a Bike Ped progress report detailing recent and planned bike ped projects in the Town of Bennington. Callie will forward a copy of the report.

4. Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment. There was an extended discussion of EVs and support infrastructure.

Next month, BCRC is involved in planning EV Vehicle Month events, with opportunities to see and provide information on EVs, their use and infrastructure needs.

The energy committee would like to obtain additional information on the use of town EV charging stations – e.g., energy dispensed, number of charges, number of different users served. Bruce Lierman will contact the charging station provider.

Given the possibility of Grant opportunities for more chargers, the town should identify locations suitable and available for immediate installation of charging stations. Several locations were noted as desirable prospects.

5. Recommendations of Energy Section of Town Plan. The committee agreed to table this discussion until the next meeting where more committee members are available. Some items have already been taken for action and progress on those items will be reviewed as well.

6. Public comment. Mr. Dundas asked the Committee to investigate the establishment of a paid Energy Coordinator position for the town. Other towns (e.g., Brattleboro) have established similar positions in order to see that energy recommendations are successfully implemented.

6. The committee discussed topics for the agenda for the next meeting. The next meeting is set for first Wednesday of month, September 1, 2021.

MSP – Motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. (BCL/DO)

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Lierman

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Location: Community Room, Bennington Recreation Center, 655 Gage Street, Bennington