

## MEETING NOTICE

### BENNINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

**Bennington Fire Dept Multi-Purpose Rm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 130 River St, Bennington**

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

#### AGENDA

In attendance: William Karis, Deana Oaks, Richard Dundas, Bruce Lee Clark, Al Bashevkin, Marsh Hudson-Knapp, Bruce Lierman, Michael Kuser

- **Review minutes from Oct 6<sup>th</sup> meeting:** Minutes passed as written
- **Define Minute Taker:** Al Bashevkin agreed to take minutes
- **Review North Bennington/Shafsbury Energy Committee Oct 28 Meeting – Bill Christian.** Bill is out of town and can report to us at the next meeting.
- **EV car-share at low-income multifamily housing units**
  - Bruce still working to connect with Twin Pines connect
  - Connected with Charge Point
    - Charge Point provided # of charging sessions from May through October.
    - Bill Karis will dig into electrical use data
- **Compost follow up**
  - Dennis Fackard(ANR) & Michael Batcher (BCSWA) – visited 2<sup>nd</sup> congregational for community compost
    - DF provided instructions on how to certify church as “transfer station”
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Church is positioning itself to be a neighborhood compost site. Trustees of the Congregation need to approve this idea. The plans include looking at publicity, trainings for people who will use the facility, and hours of operation.
  - Marsh made signs that he showed to us
    - Working to train people in how to use multi-home composting sites
  - Flatware may become an issue if not all compostable
  - Putnam House / Putnam Hotel / Putnam Block
    - TPW Reality has OKed Marsh’s signage
  - Loose Cannon – There is a question about whether their compostables are all compostable (Should someone double check on that?)
  - Sawyer of Bennington College was interested in sharing signage
    - Link Marsh w/ Sawyer to share signage
    - The group quickly discussed Bennington College acting as collection hub
  - Shires Housing could hold a large opportunity for multi-household composting

According to Committee members, schools and the hospital are complying with the law regarding composting and have been at it for some time.
- **Value of a Town Energy Coordinator**
  - No word from Brattleboro about their sustainability coordinator.

- It was wondered how we can make the case for saving Town Energy \$ by hiring an energy coordinator.
- Bill Karis will connect with Geoff Martin – re: Town Hartford Energy Coordinator.
- Our group cann Collect Town Fuel & Electric Data
  - Electric/ Fuel Oil / Propane / Diesel / Gasoline
- **Outline plan to address Recommendations of the Energy Section of the Town Plan**
  - Bill Karis will share Town Plan and Recommendations w/ Committee
  - Committee will look at three of the nine recommendations each month to lay out a game plan for achieving objectives.
- **Low-Income Outreach to Increase Uptake of Energy Efficiency Opportunities**
  - Last phase of window dresser project. Planning to build 160 inserts for 21 customers. North Shire took in for 250 windows (with large orders from a few nonprofits). Bennington orders – 55 inserts were issued at special pricing – pay what you can.
  - No proof necessary. Window dressers just trust customer to pay whatever they can. To support this special pricing, Window dressers seeks donations – donors appreciate the result of their donation. “Somebody is benefitting directly.”
    - Points to an opportunity to fund other low income energy programs.
      - Can this apply to transportation? Car share program? Low income uber?
  - BROC offers weatherization, but income verification required
    - Bruce Lierman will try to connect with BROC to learn more about their work
- **Public comment**
  - Concerned about rescue squad vehicles – could they consider a hybrid vehicle for rescue squad
  - Al – Efficiency Vermont is giving away Energy Saver kits
    - Al will send note to Jonah to publicize this offer.
- **Confirm agenda for first Wednesday of month, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 meeting** : Will look at three of the 9 recommendations to the Town Plan (Bruce Lee-Clark) to provide that outline / Take up matters that were not attended to during this meeting due to absences or a lack of information / We will meet again at the Bennington Firehouse and hopefully the wifi and projections will work/other

Respectfully submitted,

Al Bashevkin