

## BENNINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

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

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

**In attendance: William Karis, Deana Oaks, Richard Dundas, Bruce Lee Clark, Al Bashevkin, Marsh Hudson-Knapp, Bruce Lierman, Michael Kuser, Bill Christian, Callie Fishburn, Madison Kremer**

- The chair, William Karis, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM
- Review minutes from Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting
  - Motion made and seconded to adopt minutes.
  - Minutes adopted
- Define Minute Taker
  - Al
- Review North Bennington/Shafsbury Energy Committee Oct 28 Meeting – Bill Christian
  - Mentioned issue of different boundaries and working together. Will reach out again.
  - NB/Shafsbury – informal –NB could be absorbed into Bennington.
  - Callie – NB has own Energy section of village plan, and also wants to cooperate and follow with Town of Bennington Energy Plan
- EV car-share at low-income multifamily housing units
  - BL contact with people at Twin Pines Housing in Lebanon, NH. They did not provide EVs & charging stations at this location as it is believe they already have a robust transportation network.
    - BL will follow up with contact later this month.
  - Madison - \$1M set aside for EV charging at multifamily housing
    - Champlain housing trust has some in practice
    - Very interested in car share program
    - Energy Committee can offer support with application
  - Callie – working on funding opportunities document to share with Energy Committees
  - Al – supports car share to use EV infrastructure
- Compost follow up
  - Agency of Natural Resources looked at the site at the Congregational Church. They are positive about this plan and the trustees seem to be in favor of a community composting facility at their church. Marsh is hoping that a neighborhood compost drop off area at the Church can occur in a couple of months to happen. He will report back in a month or two.
  - Signs are up at the Putnam Project and hoping that can help create cleaner composting at that site. Brochures might be helpful for the residents of this facility.

- Bill K will follow up with Sawyer for handout opportunities
  - Value of a Town Energy Coordinator
    - ~\$500,000 of heating fuel/transportation fuel/electricity consumption each year
    - BLC – suggests sharing Energy Budget on Energy Section of Town Website along with Energy Committee’s recommendations. BLC will share updated
      - Changes to come – police hybrid vehicles
      - Maybe conversation with Highway
    - Cost of mowing is not included in this budget.
      - Energy Committee could make recommendation to favor electric lawn equipment. Budget review will occur early January 2022.
      - Motion to ask Select Board to include language to show preference for lawn equipment that doesn’t use fossil fuel. Voted on and passed
        - Some resources: [www.encinitasenvironment.org](http://www.encinitasenvironment.org)
  - Outline plan to address Recommendations of the Energy Section of the Town Plan
    - Create matrix of action items – BLC has provided a template which will be attached to the minutes. .
      - 1. (1.) Publicize
        - If town is responsible for publicizing then Jonah needs to be involved
          - Website update soon to come
            - BK will check with Jonah regarding format of documents
            - Energy Committee will want to post on current & future websites
        - Identify info that should be going out to residents of Bennington
        - Can the community ask the Energy Committee their questions about energy consumption?
          - What is the vehicle by which we receive those questions?
          - How do we survey the community?
            - At Town Meeting in March?
            - Website?
            - Direct Outreach
        - Include businesses / organizations / public institutions.
- Players who already do this work:
- EVT
  - GMP
  - BROC – WeatherizationWorks
  - NeighborworksHeat Squad
  - Low cost energy audit, rebate organization, GC connecting with contractors
  - VT Clean Cities
  - BCRC - EV Event
- Should the Energy Committee have a booth at Garlic Town?
2. Vermont Energy Dashboard Energy Atlas Baseline
  - Michael is digging into VT Energy Dashboard Energy. It is hoped that the Energy Atlas can help us measure and track progress about how energy is being saved.
    - Michael will share presentation of VTEDEA

3. Work with realtors & building material suppliers to distribute energy-efficiency information similar to the contractor package

Contractor package is provided to any new construction in the Town, provides codes & EVT resources.

- All this information should be available through the Town Website
- Develop Package
  - o Conversation with Dan Monks & Building Inspector (Paul Danserau)
- Discuss Package with outlets
  - o BLC will reach out to realtors. Realtors can help renters and buyers be more aware of energy standards and resources to help conserve energy.
- Low-Income Outreach to Increase Uptake of Energy Efficiency Opportunities
- Public comment
  - o LEDs are better than CFLs
  - o Interest in Town position – there needs to be advocacy for a position within the town
    - Energy committee or public comment can come to Select Board Meeting to share need. Motioned/Seconded/Vote Passed
      - Bruce Lierman points out the Town success in achieving its goals is tied to creating new posts
      - Callie – ARPA funds lost revenue can be use for provision of govt services
      - Madison –asked questions about Sustainability Coordinator
        - o Will share notes she has about other Sustainability Coordinators.
      - Bill Christian – can put together cost / benefit analysis to bring to the Select Board at some point
    - o A few members toured the WWTF.
    - o Marsh talked with rescue squad agenda –will put on Agenda for January.
- Confirm agenda for first Wednesday of month, Jan 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting
- MSP: Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Action Plan: Separate document