

BENNINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 4th, 2022

Bennington Fire Dept Multi-Purpose Rm, 3rd Floor, 130 River St, Bennington

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Members Present : **William Karis (Chair), Bruce Lee Clark (Member), Al Bashevkin (Member), Deana Oakes (Member) Bruce Lierman (Member), Marsh Hudson-Knapp (Guest)**

- Review minutes from April 6th meeting.
 - Minutes approved.
- EV charging and EV car-share opportunity/ updates
 - It was reported that Hemmings Motor News is sponsoring a number of drive-ins this summer and they are expecting up to 250 cars this summer. It is suggested that a different day will allow BBC bring E-vehicles to Bennington and something that the Energy Committee can push. This could be done in front of BennHi or the TD North Parking lot. The idea will be shared with Jennie Dewars of the BBC
 - Bruce L invited Annie Bourdon to speak about how she got Car Share VT started at the next meeting
- Data Subcommittee Update
 - Bill received information about Bennington Town municipal oil, propane, gasoline and diesel use starting FY 2005-FY 2021. It has not yet been analyzed.
 - The Town of Bennington has budgeted for a new battery powered riding mower and a battery powered push mower as well as 2 hybrid vehicles for the police department. The vehicles require less maintenance than gas powered vehicles.
- PR Subcommittee Update
 - Bruce LC has reached out to CAT TV to see what it takes to do a 15 minute program. It's still a work in process.
 - Al has reached out to local markets and has use posters to inform folks about the Heat Squad benefits. Not satisfied with the results. Bruce has seen positive results from approaching people at GBICS with the window Dressers inserts. He estimated about 20 folks are interested. It takes a one on one approach to make this work.
 - Jonah reached out to Bill Karis and he is working on a write-up of Heat Squad and BROC offerings.
 - Jeannie Jenkins and Bruce LC will meet with the ED of BROC and their weatherization staff. Meeting has been delayed due to COVID. While BROC does some weatherization work, the rate is slow and they will not see significant change in the Bennington Housing stock unless more is invested and done. They are working with less than twenty homes/ year and that rate will not significantly make our overall housing stock more weatherized. BCRC also has information about the state of the housing stock in Bennington. BROC serves low income people. Heat Squad provides programs for all income groups at market rates. One of the challenges is finding enough qualified contractors.
- Distribution of Energy Efficiency Materials Update
 - Bill connected with Paul Dansereau about helping to make the energy efficient materials information more accessible to the contractors and builders of the region.
- Action Items Matrix
 - Bruce L is working with others on the Town Plan and hopes to have the plan include what our Town should look like 8 years from now; in 2030. He reminded us how important it is to consider replacing vehicles and machines with those that can be more energy efficient.

- Op eds can be written to continue to alert the community to what is happening in Bennington.
- Public comment
 - Al Bashevkin announced plans to build a Bike Hub in Bennington that is planned to take over the site and assets of Highlander Bicycle. More information about the Bike Hub will come out in the coming months.
 - It was learned that the Child Advocacy Center has bikes to donate to the right owner
 - Town is working to be more supportive of bike travel
- Confirm agenda for first Wednesday of month, June 1st, 2022 meeting

We endeavor to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Paul Dansereau, Facilities Director: pdansereau@benningtonvt.org or call 802-447-9715.